

BACKGROUND GUIDE

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

*Addressing the condition of women in the Rohingya crisis*

**Letter from the Executive Board**

Greetings delegates,

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at Utopia Model United Nations MUN 2018 shall be discussing “Addressing the condition of women in Rohingya Crisis” as its agenda for the course of two days. The agenda is chosen after intense debate and deliberation amongst the Executive Board, keeping in mind the relevance, the mandate and the wide availability of information of the same. Though we shall try our level best to give you all a very comprehensive guide, however, the responsibility of reading between the lines and joining the dots lies on you. We as moderators can just bring information on the table; it’s on you how you wish to pursue that information as. So in this Guide as well, we shall bring in a wide range of information to your notice, ranging from official statements to scholarly views however the responsibility of prioritizing what to focus on and not is totally yours. When we talk of prioritizing information, what we mean is not to prioritize information according to what you think should be focused, but prioritizing information according to what your country thinks should be focused.

We hope that we will be able to critically examine the agenda and come up with solutions, or maybe measures, which we can adopt to avert crises. Just remember that being a problem solver is your primary role as a participant in this discussion, even if you may have to speak from the perspective of the respective governments which you are going represent. We know that there will be times when you will be stuck in formulating a solution. The reason simply being that you will be able to see limitations to whatever you are suggesting. Here, a key advice would be that you cannot make a perfect solution. None of us can. We have to figure out the outcomes we wish to prioritize and why should we prioritize. We shall also be looking forward to originality but do remember in the course of representing a country, do not deviate from your foreign policy.

While researching do not treat data or figure as just numbers or letters, there is a whole lot of backlog which resulted in the creation of such a data. Try your best to know the story behind that data, to understand the construction of that data and know why that data exists. While researching you shall always have prejudices about which information is important which is not, but rectifying them and treating every piece of information on the same platter is what your role should be as a person trying to make sense of information. In short, it is a request to strive for reducing cognitive biases. While researching or debating it has often been observed that we all tend to get swayed by our common sense. We start believing on something just because it delights our common sense. One’s role as a diplomat and as a person who is researching on any issues is to prevent himself or herself from getting swayed away by common sense. And the best way to overcome this is to question your own common sense, what is the root of our common sense.

Most important, these types of agendas might seem very easy on the face value but where the challenge exists is relating this agenda to the mandate of the committee they are being discussed in. So try to research within the boundaries of the committee as it will enable you to channelize efforts and go have clarity with respect to prioritization of research.

Note-There shall be **no to Executive Board chits** in the council. You all are **free to make Resolutions or any sort of Documentation from home**. The **Background Guide can’t be used a credible proof** at any point of time. We through this Guide just take the responsibility of giving you a start, how far you wish to go totally depends on you. Make sure that you **go through Links for Further Reading compulsorily** as they will help you to build on your understanding. The **Executive Board would be flexible about the Rules of Procedure** and **encourages participation in all domains such as lobbying, chits, documentation, documentation discussion and raising motions, points and yields**. A short briefing session shall be conducted on the day of the conference about the marking criteria and expectations and all. You are **Free to explore** the agenda as per your convenience.

Feel free to contact us in case you have any query pertaining to this committee.

Regards

Nikhil Goyal - Chairperson ([nikhilgoyalatnow@gmail.com](mailto:nikhilgoyalatnow@gmail.com))

**About the Committee**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by [Council resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/pdf/CSW_founding_resolution_1946.pdf).

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 1996, ECOSOC in [resolution 1996/6](http://unbisnet.un.org:8080/ipac20/ipac.jsp?session=117397L78X7P3.3318&profile=bib&uri=full=3100001~!430017~!0&ri=19&aspect=power&menu=search&source=~!horizon#focus) expanded the Commission’s mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities. Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the Commission now also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women (ECOSOC [resolution 2015/6](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2015/6)).

During the Commission’s annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/), the key global policy document on gender equality, and the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5.htm) held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women’s enjoyment of their rights in political, economic and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

UN Women supports all aspects of the Commission’s work. The Entity also facilitates the participation of civil society representatives.

**Methods of Work**

The Commission adopts [multi-year work programmes](http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw#multiyear) to appraise progress and make further recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. These recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme.

Under its current methods of work, established by ECOSOC resolution [2015/6](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2015/6), at each session the Commission:

* Holds a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission;
* Engages in general discussion on the status of gender equality, identifying goals attained, achievements made and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme;
* Considers one priority theme, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly and possible linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
* Evaluates progress in implementing agreed conclusions from previous sessions as a review theme;
* Addresses emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, that require timely consideration;
* Plays a catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system and contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions;
* Considers in closed meeting the report of its Working Group on Communications;
* Agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions; and

Sets aside time for the observation of International Women’s Day on 8 March, when it falls within its session.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Credibility of Sources in the Council**

We all understand that the internet today is flooded with information. We often encounter pieces of information or facts which are inaccurate or even fabricated. Many times we read news articles which are biased. This challenge, of determining which fact is true or not, sometimes becomes a bone of contention between different governments as well. Take for example India and Pakistan, which often accuse each other of initiating the violation of the ceasefire establish between them at the Line of Control (LoC). Thus, even at the international arena, veracity and acceptance of a fact by one or more government plays a major role in how an agenda is understood, deliberated or resolved. As it is likely that disputes may arise in the council related to the facts presented by various delegates, the Executive Board is sharing a list of sources which it will deem more credible than any other source. It means that if the Board has to decide which fact is true at a time of dispute resolution, then it may choose the fact from one of these sources over others.

But please note that as a representative of a country’s government, you are free to look at all types of sources for your reference or preparation. However, it is advised that you cross-check facts from at least one of the following –

1. News Sources
   1. Reuters

It is an independent private news agency, which mostly covers international events of importance.

Website: [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)

* 1. State operated News Agencies

In many countries the government itself partially or fully controls the media, and thus the subsequent flow of information. Hence, news reports from such outlets can be used by a participant to substantiate or refute a fact in context of that government’s position on the agenda in the council. For examples,

* + 1. RIA Novosti (Russia)
    2. IRNA (Iran)
    3. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (People’s Republic of China)

1. Government Reports

These are reports which various organs, ministries, departments or affiliated agencies of a government release. They can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports. You may visit different governmental websites for the same. For Example,

* 1. State Department of the United States of America

Website: [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

* 1. Ministry of Foreign or External Affairs of various countries like India

Website: [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)

1. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations

This portal serves as a one-stop-shop for finding documents which reflect the activity of a country at United Nations or its affiliated bodies. The documents from these individual country websites also serve as a source for finding official statements by that country on various agendas. Do take note that the nature of websites varies a lot from country to country.

Source Link: [www.un.org/en/members/](http://www.un.org/en/members/)

(Click on a particular country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative.)

1. Other Multilateral or Inter-Governmental Organizations

These are international organisations which are apart from the United Nations. Usually one may find these organisation based around a specify region like South Asia, and a specific purpose such as trade, security or cooperation. Documents from the same can be deemed credible; most certainly for the countries which are a part of that organisation. For example,

* 1. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Website: [www.saarc-sec.org](http://www.saarc-sec.org)

* 1. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

Website: [www.nato.int/cps/en](http://www.nato.int/cps/en)

1. United Nations and Affiliated Bodies

All reports or documents from the United Nations, its organs or affiliated bodies may be considered as a credible source of information.

Website: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

* 1. Organs such as,
     1. UN Security Council

Website: [www.un.org/Docs/sc/](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/)

* + 1. UNGA

Website: [www.un.org/en/ga/](http://www.un.org/en/ga/)

* 1. UN Affiliated bodies such,
     1. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Website: [www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org)

* + 1. The World Bank (WB)

Website: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

1. Documents from Treaty Based Bodies

These are bodies which are strictly formed for looking after the implementation of an international treaty or agreement. These agreements are pertinent to a specific theme; a document which various countries sign and agree upon. For example,

* 1. The Antarctic Treaty System

Website: [www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm](http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm)’

* 1. The International Criminal Court

It is based on an agreement known as the Rome Statute.

Website: [www.icc-cpi.int](http://www.icc-cpi.int)

Note while ruling a Point of Order the reports published by CSW, UNHRC and UN shall take precedence over any other source of information.

**Introduction to the issue - Situation in Myanmar**

Tens of thousands of Muslim Rohingya have fled Myanmar, many crossing by land into Bangladesh, while others take to the sea to reach Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The latest surge in refugees was prompted by a long-building crisis: the discriminatory policies of the Myanmar government in Rakhine state, which have caused hundreds of thousands of Rohingya to flee since the late 1970s. Their plight has been compounded by the responses of many of Myanmar’s neighbors, which have been slow to take in refugees for fear of a migrant influx they feel incapable of handling.

Government policies, including restrictions on marriage, family planning, employment, education, religious choice, and freedom of movement have institutionalized systemic discrimination against the ethnic group.

Rakhine state is also Myanmar’s least developed state, with more than 78 percent of households living below the poverty threshold, according to World Bank estimates. Widespread poverty, weak infrastructure, and a lack of employment opportunities exacerbate the cleavage between Buddhists and Muslim Rohingya. This tension is deepened by religious differences that have at times erupted into conflict.

Violence broke out in 2012, when a group of Rohingya men were accused of raping and killing a Buddhist woman. Groups of Buddhist nationalists burned Rohingya homes and killed more than 280 people, displacing tens of thousands of people. Human Rights Watch described the anti-Rohingya violence as amounting to crimes against humanity carried out as part of a “campaign of ethnic cleansing.” Since 2012, the region’s displaced population has been forced to take shelter in squalid refugee camps. More than 120,000 Muslims, predominantly Rohingya, are still housed in more than forty internment camps, according to regional rights organization Fortify Rights.

Many Rohingya have turned to smugglers, choosing to pay for transport out of Myanmar to escape persecution. “The fact that thousands of Rohingya prefer a dangerous boat journey they may not survive to staying in Myanmar speaks volumes about the conditions they face there,” says Amnesty International’s Kate Schuetze. Fleeing repression and extreme poverty, more than eighty-eight thousand migrants took to sea from the Bay of Bengal between January 2014 and May 2015, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

A series of attacks on security posts along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border in October 2016 revived ethnic violence in Rakhine state. Local government and authorities blamed Rohingya militants for the attacks, prompting an inflow of military and police forces to support a manhunt for those responsible and to tighten security. Dozens of people were killed in raids, tens of thousands displaced internally, and at least sixty-five thousand crossed into Bangladesh between October 2016 and early January 2017. “There’s historical precedent for the authorities using lethal force against Rohingya in the area and we’re concerned a crackdown is unfolding,” says Matthew Smith, chief executive of Fortify Rights.

Human Rights Watch released satellite imagery showing the fresh destruction of hundreds of Rohingya homes in October and November 2016, the most deadly spate of violence since 2012. Reports in November indicated that the security lockdown was also preventing the entry of much-needed food and medical care from international agencies into villages. Later that month, John McKissick, head of the UN refugee agency, said the Myanmar government was carrying out “ethnic cleansing” of the Rohingya people. Malaysia’s foreign minister described the Myanmar government’s actions as ethnic cleansing and called on stopping the practice. Separately, protesters gathered in cities in India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Bangladesh to condemn the killing and persecution of Rohingya. Meanwhile, the Myanmar government has focused its messaging on its efforts to “maintain peace and stability” in the country and its own investigations have refuted allegations of genocide and religious persecution.

The Rohingyas - a distinct Muslim ethnic group who are effectively stateless - have been fleeing Myanmar for decades. But a combination of factors means many are now stranded in rickety boats off the coasts of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia with dwindling supplies of food and water.

Also on the boats are thousands of economic migrants from Bangladesh fleeing grinding poverty at home.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Women and Girls at Risk in the Rohingya Refugee Crisis**

The fastest-growing refugee disaster in the world is unfolding along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border in South Asia. As of this week, more than 400,000 people have escaped intense violence in Rakhine State, where the Burmese military is carrying out “clearance operations” purportedly targeting insurgents, but that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recently described as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing.” The spiraling political crisis and humanitarian catastrophe have severe and unique consequences for women, who make up a substantial portion of the displaced population.

The Rohingya refugee crisis is a [complex situation](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/09/14/5-things-you-need-to-know-about-rohingya-crisis-and-how-it-could-roil-southeast-asia/?utm_term=.0e6cefd5da16) driven by a variety of factors related to ethnic and religious cleavages as well as competition over natural resources. Muslim minority groups in an overwhelmingly Buddhist-majority country, the Rohingya have faced violent persecution and systematic ostracization for decades. Denied citizenship, the Rohingya have virtually no political voice. Widespread human rights abuses have characterized the most recent wave of violence, which began this summer after a small rebel group attacked local authorities. Civilians have borne the brunt of the military’s retributory attacks, which include [scorched earth tactics](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/09/myanmar-scorched-earth-campaign-fuels-ethnic-cleansing-of-rohingya-from-rakhine-state/), massacres, torture, forced disappearances, [landmine blasts](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/10/myanmar-accused-of-planting-landmines-in-path-of-fleeing-rohingya), and [sexual violence](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/plight-of-the-rohingya-they-cursed-in-burmese-raped-us-and-slit-the-throats-of-four-girls-c0jjkbrk2). Although the Burmese military denies such allegations, women have reportedly been the targets of [opportunistic and orchestrated rapes](https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/02/06/burma-security-forces-raped-rohingya-women-girls) by security forces in the region. More than [40 percent of villages](http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/14/asia/myanmar-rohingya-empty-villages/index.html) previously occupied by the Rohingya have emptied in recent weeks as people have fled on foot and in boats across the Naf River to Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Bangladesh lacks the wealth and infrastructure necessary to deal with a disaster of the scale it now confronts: it is an overpopulated and underdeveloped country that is prone to natural disasters and rising sea levels. Nevertheless, Bangladeshis have largely united in support of the Rohingya refugees.  In a rare show of agreement, [opposition parties](http://www.thedailystar.net/world/rohingya-crisis/bnp-appreciates-pms-rohingya-camp-visit-1461562) backed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s decision to shelter the Rohingya fleeing violence, at least for the time being. After visiting refugees in camps near the border, she urged Myanmar’s government to accept Rohingyas back and guarantee their security, but also [spoke of a responsibility](http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2017/09/12/bangladesh-can-feed-700000-rohingya-refugees/) to care for the huddled masses she encountered. The government of Bangladesh has announced that it will build additional temporary shelters to cope with the influx of refugees who are currently living in squalor a bazaar that was previously a tourist destination and beach town. The humanitarian task before local authorities, however, is colossal, and without an end in sight.

Relief organizations have reported [acute hygiene and sanitation problems](http://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/mayanmar-rohingya-refugee-crisis-water-sanitation-crisis-roadside-refugees-suffer-the-brunt-1463086) in temporary camps that disproportionately affect women and girls. Without access to electricity, clean water and latrines, women must resort to walking into jungles in the dark, leaving them susceptible to harassment, violence, and contracting gastrointestinal diseases. Scores of mothers with newborns and pregnant women have also arrived seeking medical care and protection. Reproductive health care and access to family planning and feminine hygiene products is particularly important for women and their families during disaster, but such needs [typically go unmet](http://wunrn.com/2017/04/state-of-crisis-meeting-sexual-reproductive-health-needs-of-women-in-humanitarian-situations/)during humanitarian emergencies. Many of the refugees are also in shock due to the brutality they endured and witnessed in their homeland, but have limited access to psychosocial resources. [Lessons learned in Syria](https://www.rescue.org/report/are-we-listening-acting-our-commitments-women-and-girls-affected-syrian-conflict-0) and elsewhere remind us that women and girls who are forcibly displaced are typically traumatized and at fresh risk of abuse while living in precarious conditions. Moreover, Unicef claims that [60 percent of refugees](http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2017/09/15/551217209/photos-children-caught-in-the-crossfire-of-rohingya-crisis) that have arrived in Bangladesh thus far are children, meaning that hundreds of thousands of Rohingya youth are out of school and girls are left especially vulnerable to [sexual exploitation and trafficking](https://www.voanews.com/a/bangladesh-rohingya-children-vanish-spark-fears/3813440.html).

Even before the recent spate of violence, Rohingya women’s rights were being trampled upon by the state. Unable to vote, own property, or choose the number of children to have, and at risk of arbitrary detention and violence at the hands of security forces, Rohingya women have survived on the [margins of society](file:///C:\%5CUsers%5Caconnell%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CXLAX0DMB%5C1.Aung%20San%20Suu%20Kyi%C3%A2%C2%80%C2%99s%20role%20and%20response%20a.Int%C3%A2%C2%80%C2%99l%20criticism%20and%20condenationa%20b.Constitution%20grants%20her%20no%20power%20c.But%20she%20has%20also%20called%20the%20crisis%20an%20%C3%A2%C2%80%C2%9Ciceberg%20of%20misinformation%C3%A2%C2%80%C2%9D%20and%20she%20has%20never%20been%20particularly%20sympathetic%20to%20the%20plight%20of%20the%20Rohingya%20d.Panel%20of%20experts%20led%20by%20Kofi%20Annan%20to%20addresss%20Rohingya) for generations. But their situation became progressively worse in the recent years: one of the starkest examples of this was a controversial 2015 [law restricting interfaith marriage](http://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/parliament-approves-controversial-interfaith-marriage-law-07072015152051.html) that disproportionately disenfranchised women and ethnic minorities. The escalating humanitarian crisis only compounds these existing inequalities.

As the humanitarian emergency continues to unfold, the UN, EU, international aid organizations, and governments across the globe are trying to provide assistance to alleviate refugees’ suffering—such efforts must take into account the specific risks faced by women and girls. In the immediate crisis, this means implementing gender-sensitive refugee processing mechanisms to collect data on women and girls entering camps, deploying trained female interpreters and health workers, and protecting female refugees from additional violence—including by ensuring access to sanitation facilities, offering gender-segregated spaces, and providing families with lockable shelter.

Earlier this month, the government of Canada took a positive step in this direction, [pledging $2.5 million in assistance](http://globalnews.ca/news/3747560/canada-humanitarian-aid-rohingya-muslims-myanmar/) for Rohingya women and children as part of its new foreign aid budget, which was expanded to support global efforts related to family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, gender-based violence, and maternal and neonatal care. Still, the gap between resources available and resources needed remains vast worldwide, and particularly so in the rapidly evolving Rohingya disaster. It is critically important that additional humanitarian action is coordinated in accordance with the [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjz05Gu2rHWAhXCxVQKHeY1CvsQFggwMAI&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usip.org%2Fgender_peacebuilding%2Fabout_UNSCR_1325&usg=AFQjCNHh1yzHK1EL635hFN3Rj_JYWJcP3A), and takes into consideration the rights and roles of women and girls. [[3]](#footnote-3)

**Background**

Violent conflict began in Rakhine State in October 2016. Since 25 August 2017, an estimated 688,8001 Rohingya refugees have crossed the border into Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. The distressed and traumatized displaced population – approximately 522 per cent of which are women and girls – lives in terrible conditions and lacks adequate food, water, sanitation, medical care and access to their livelihoods and assets.

The crisis situation disproportionately affects women, girls and the most vulnerable and marginalized Rohingya refugee population groups (based on gender, age, marital status, sex of household head, mental and physical disabilities, and sexual orientation and gender identity) by reinforcing, perpetuating and exacerbating pre-existing, persistent gender inequalities, gender-based violence and discrimination.

According to community leaders and interviews with refugees, almost every woman and girl in the Balukhali makeshift settlements in Cox’s Bazar is either a survivor of or a witness to multiple incidences of sexual assault, rape, gang‑rape, murder through mutilation or burning alive of a close family member or neighbor. Women and girls have experienced sexual‑ and gender‑based violence, perpetrated by both the Myanmar army and by Rakhine locals (the incidence of this violence has increased in frequency over the last two years ). Many women whose sexual assault resulted in conception are reported to have sought out abortions after arriving in Bangladesh. This is a frightening reminder that sexual‑ and gender‑based violence are among the most horrific weapons of war, instruments of terror most often used against women.

The recent influx has more than doubled the population living in refugee settlements and stretched the capacities of humanitarian agencies working to provide emergency shelter, access to clean water and sanitation, health‑care services, delivery of food and nutrition support for malnourished girls and boys especially, education, and protective services. Increasing overcrowding and decreasing privacy at all refugee sites elevate safety and security risks, particularly for women and girls.

Almost 400,000 refugees need immediate access to water and sanitation. This increased population currently lacks sufficient numbers of latrines, water points and bathing facilities. As a result, women and men are forced to share toilets without basic protection measures including gender segregation.

Meeting these needs requires at least 59 million litres of potable water per day and 18,000 emergency latrines. Existing health‑care facilities are overstretched; sexual and reproductive health services are virtually non‑existent. The most vulnerable and marginalized women and girls (including older women, single women, women with disabilities, female-headed households, pregnant women – many of whom are very young – adolescent girls and people with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations) are among the first to experience additional access barriers to scarce and overstretched humanitarian relief services. Twenty‑four thousand pregnant and lactating women require maternal health‑care support at already overstretched health‑care facilities. Further, notwithstanding their being the hardest impacted, they are usually the last to be consulted (if at all) about their needs and provided with the least information about where and how to claim relief services.

Many Rohingya refugee households are female headed. Female-headed and elderly households with no male relatives are already exhibiting greater vulnerability than those with adult males. Having fled in extreme circumstances, these households are not only traumatized by the loss of their loved ones, but also the loss of their assets, livelihoods and all forms of financial security. This dispossession is exacerbated by settling in poor, resource-constrained Bangladeshi communities.

Other vulnerable subgroups include the elderly and persons with disabilities, subgroups who are, for example, unable to build their own shelters. Their vulnerability is worsened by the lack of information on obtaining food and aid tokens (e.g. where to go and who to consult).

According to the Daily Star (an independent Bangladeshi newspaper), “14,740 orphan Rohingya children have been identified since September 20 in the settlements in Ukhia and Teknaf.”There are some indications that women and children are turning to negative coping mechanisms to mitigate economic and food insecurity (e.g. selling their remaining assets, participating in the illegal drug trade or engaging in transactional sex). [[4]](#footnote-4)

Women and children are also at heightened risk of becoming victims of human trafficking, sexual abuse or child and forced marriage for the same reasons. There is already anecdotal evidence that child marriage is commonly practiced among Rohingyas. Women and adolescent girls between the ages of 13 and 20 newly arriving from Myanmar typically have two to four children each (some of the 13 to 20-year-olds are currently pregnant). There is concern that the economic insecurity of the newly arrived Rohingya population will further encourage this harmful practice.

A 2015 gender analysis study, 10 which included a focused group discussion and key informant interviews among the 3,000 Rohingya refugees who were then living in Cox’s Bazar’s official refugee camps, revealed that 94 per cent of women respondents reported that they did not make decisions about their current marriage, and that 45 per cent were married as children. Ninety-five per cent of them said that the main role of women is cooking; 53 per cent believed that women should not be allowed to leave the house (42 per cent of surveyed women reported spending an average of 21 to 24 hours a day inside their house).

These factors have had tremendous negative effects on women’s and girls’ mobility, leadership potential, decision-making ability and control over things that impact their lives. Such an environment requires further efforts to understand negative coping strategies, norms, attitudes and behaviors. It also requires developing mechanisms that enable and empower women and girls to mitigate real or perceived risks, to monitor and address rights violation issues, to act as first responders, leaders, and decision makers for refugee response efforts and to build their own and their community’s resilience.

Integrating gender equality measures into the refugee response is critical to ensuring that women and girls – particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized – have equitable access to (and benefit from) relief, services and information. Humanitarian responses often miss opportunities to transform gender relations through the leadership and empowerment of women and girls in their role as decision makers, first responders, and economic actors – notwithstanding the fact that they are keys to response effectiveness and to communities’ longer-term resilience.

Understanding these distinctions provides humanitarian actors with a more accurate conception of how the crisis affects different vulnerable groups. This understanding is key to designing gender-responsive human rights-based humanitarian actions that meet the needs and priorities of the population in a more targeted manner and ensure that all people affected by the crisis are acknowledged (and that their needs and vulnerabilities are taken into account); and that the humanitarian response is more effective and efficient.

**Situation**

Human Rights Watch research found that gang rape and other forms of sexual violence by the Burmese military against Rohingya women and girls since August 2017 has been a widespread and at times systematic practice. It was often accompanied by killings, beatings, and other abuses against both the victim and other family members. Burmese soldiers stripped, raped, and otherwise sexually assaulted women and girls during the ethnic cleansing campaign that began on August 25, but also engaged in repeated violence and harassment in the weeks prior to the military operations.

In every rape case described to Human Rights Watch, the perpetrators were uniformed members of Burmese security forces. In two cases, victims said the perpetrators were dressed in grey-blue camouflage uniform, probably that of Burma’s Border Guard Police. In the other cases victims said those responsible were members of the Burmese military. Survivors said the men wore either green camouflage uniforms or plain dark green uniforms. Groups of soldiers sometimes included men in both types of uniform. The rapes were accompanied by other violence or threats of violence, humiliation, and cruelty. Soldiers beat women and girls with fists or guns, slapped them, or kicked them hard with boots. In two cases women reported that their attackers laughed at them during the gang rapes. More frequently attackers threatened their victims either verbally or through actions like putting a gun to their heads. In two cases women said the perpetrators bit their breasts.

In some cases, soldiers conducted gang rapes in public. Most of the women and girls interviewed by Human Rights Watch were raped in their houses but in two cases they said they were dragged outside.

The “clearance operations” that began in August took place in the context of a long history of persecution and abuse of ethnic Rohingya by the Burmese government, including sexual abuse of Rohingya women and girls. Three of the women interviewed said they had been raped twice by Burmese soldiers—both during the recent attacks but also during earlier operations or visits in their villages prior to the ARSA attacks. Many others reported longstanding sexual harassment and other forms of harassment.

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Many interviewees reported that before the arson attacks in August, some local Rakhine sexually harassed and robbed them and other women of money or gold jewelry and stole chickens and other animals. Human Rights Watch heard nearly a dozen accounts of soldiers and Rakhine villagers grabbing or fondling Rohingya women’s breasts when ostensibly searching for money. In every case reported, the soldiers and Rakhine villagers stole any money they found.

**Numbers of Reported Cases**

Humanitarian organizations assisting Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have together reported receiving hundreds of recent rape cases. These likely represent only a small proportion of the actual number of women and girls raped because they do not include those who were raped and subsequently killed, because the deep stigma attached to sexual assault makes survivors reluctant to seek assistance, and because various other factors discourage reporting, including concern about paying fees for medical care and lack of confidence in future criminal investigations.

Representatives of humanitarian agencies, national and international nongovernmental organizations working with survivors, as well as Bangladesh government officials have said that they believe that only a small proportion of recently arrived refugee rape survivors had reported their rapes to medical providers, in either Bangladeshi government or humanitarian facilities. Of the survivors that Human Rights interviewed, almost two thirds had not reported their rape to authorities or humanitarian organizations. Only one of the women we contacted independently without the assistance of a humanitarian organization had sought appropriate health care or rep

**Killing of Women and Family Members Killing of Women**

The Burmese security forces’ ostensible counterinsurgency operations since August have not spared Rohingya women from extrajudicial killing. One interviewee said that her friend, Shona Mer, about 40, died while they both fled Shoppara village in Rathedaung Township: “She was shot in the stomach, she ran to the other village with us but she died as soon as we got there.”

"I saw a woman being shot as she fled,” Hamida Amir, a rape survivor from Maungdaw Township said about her neighbor called “Dolu.” “Her father was running in front of her. He stopped and ran back and took [Dolu’s] child."

Shaju Hosin, a rape survivor from Tin May village in Buthidaung Township, said that she saw the shooting of her neighbor, Shamsung Naher.Security forces shot both Shamsung Naher and her husband as they tried to flee their house.

**Killing of Children and Other Family Members**

My child has died, my husband has died, I just want to die. I have no idea about my future. Why ask me about my future? —Hadija Jamal, 25, survivor of Chut Pyin massacre, Bangladesh, October 2017 Many rape survivors and other women and girls interviewed said that the Burmese security forces’ killing of their family members was the most traumatic part of the attacks.

One woman, for example, said she was haunted by having seen her cousin’s brain after he was shot in the head and witnessing a soldier picking up and tossing part of his skull over a wall. Especially devastating were the killing of spouses and children, including infants and toddlers. In 13 interviews women or girls said they had seen soldiers murder close family members, often in cruel ways. In another five cases women and girls had heard that their close family members had been killed. In one case a woman said two of her children were missing. Others reported that they had heard that neighbors, or others with whom they were close had been killed or were missing.

In the chaos of the attacks and because they often had several children to try and rescue, some women were forced to leave one or more children behind as they fled. Although women agreed in interviews that there was nothing they could have done otherwise, interviewees expressed feelings of guilt, as well as intense grief, about these losses.

Human Rights Watch interviewed eight women who said that their husbands had been killed or were missing, while six said they had been arrested during the military operations that started in late August or in the weeks or months before the operations. Four others said that they had become separated in the chaos, or that their husbands had chosen to remain in Burma.

Some women said that their rapes took place along with arrests or attacks on husbands or other men in the family. Burmese soldiers took Baanu Salam’s husband from their home in a village in Buthidaung Township, and then gang-raped her. “They were all in uniform,” she said. “They beat me and when my daughter began crying, they beat her too. I was begging them to stop but they kept beating her.”

Women who had lost their husbands said that they were profoundly affected by the recent attacks on their villages and their arduous journeys to Bangladesh, but were also full of anxieties about how to manage the present. “I am so scared,” said Hasina Begum. “How am I to cope with the kids and no husband?” Human Rights Watch and others have documented the Burmese army’s attacks and killing of older people during their ethnic cleansing campaign. The interviewees talked about older people being left behind, or seeing older people killed.

**Hardships Faced by Pregnant Women and Rape Survivors While Fleeing**

I cannot even tell you how we suffered. —Hasina Begum, 25, Kutapalong refugee camp, Bangladesh, October 2017

When this report was written, the Burmese military’s ethnic cleansing operations against Rohingya in northern Rakhine State have forced some 600,000 Rohingya to flee their homes into neighboring Bangladesh. Several interviewees said they were in a state of shock at how much they had lost all at once: their families, houses, land, and all nearly all their possessions. “I don’t even have a jug to collect water,” one woman said.70 After surviving horrific attacks on their villages, Rohingya women made grueling walks to Bangladesh over hills and through valleys and thick vegetation, often with little or nothing to eat. Many said their journeys lasted between three and 10 days. In interviews with Human Rights Watch, the women expressed strong emotion and recounted visceral memories of intense physical pain and psychological suffering during their journeys.

Rape survivors said they walked more slowly because of their injuries and that they often dropped behind others fleeing to Bangladesh. Women and girls reported both physical and psychological trauma. Fatama Begum, who was stabbed in her side while she was raped, said that she felt herself give up during the journey. “After five days of walking I became suicidal. I did nothing, I did not move. My children were shaking me, trying to make me move," she said.75 Women in advanced stages of pregnancy also endured pain during the long walk to relative safety.

**Access to Services and Documentation of Sexual Violence**

Physical and Emotional Trauma

About 10 women reported still having serious injuries or illnesses at the time we spoke with them, including vaginal tears, bleeding, or infections as a result of rape. Some women reported additional injuries caused by walking so soon after the attacks. Two rape survivors said they were trying not to drink liquids because it hurt so much to urinate.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychosocial disabilities are often associated with rape. Many of the women Human Rights Watch interviewed said they were suffering from poor sleep, loss of appetite, and depressed mood and thoughts. Rape survivors also often describe bodily pain without a clear physical reason. Akash Abdul said that she was still feeling pain in her hips, roughly six weeks after she was raped. “I used to be healthy but now I have lost a lot of weight.… I think all the time, all the time the thoughts are coming. I can't sleep well … I do not go out,” she said.

Barriers to Post-Rape Care

Most of the survivors Human Rights Watch interviewed had not sought post-rape care. Those who had received care were introduced to us through a humanitarian agency.

Many of the women and girls we met had little or no history of contact with health services in Burma. They often did not know that medical care is strongly recommended for survivors of rape. Women and girls also said they thought that they would have to pay for the care, for which they had no money. Human Rights Watch found a similar lack of familiarity with health services and fear of costs when interviewing Rohingya rape survivors in December 2016 and January 2017.

However, the primary reasons that interviewees gave Human Rights Watch for not reporting rape or seeking health care were stigma and shame, even when they were experiencing severe pain. Representatives from eight different humanitarian organizations working on the crisis also said that stigma was a serious barrier.

According to an organization that has been locating rape survivors and referring them to humanitarian organizations for treatment, family members and mostly male camp leaders sometimes prevent women and girls from talking openly about rape. “[They] say to them, ‘Don’t share information,’” said a case worker. “They have a lot of power in the camps.”

Another barrier to access to post-rape care has been chaos in the refugee camps, the makeshift nature of the settlements, and a lack of privacy. Nura Naha said that the lack of privacy near tented health clinics in the camp had dissuaded her from seeking help. "There was one clinic but there were so many people and I could not face to tell the doctor," she said.

In recent years, nongovernmental organizations working with rape survivors have had some success with providing women-friendly spaces next door to clinical medical services, making access to physical and mental health care as well as psychosocial activities far easier than at facilities specifically known for providing services for survivors of gender-based violence. Some relief organizations have provided such facilities at the camps in Bangladesh, and they are already being used by hundreds of women, including rape survivors.

Response by the Burmese Authorities

Despite the growing evidence collected by humanitarian organizations about sexual violence perpetrated by the Burmese security forces against Rohingya women and girls, Burmese authorities have made public statements denying or crudely attempting to cast doubt on these reports. In early September, the Rakhine State minister for border security, Col. Phone Tint, denied reports of military abuses involving sexual violence. “Where is the proof?” he asked. “Look at those women who are making these claims – would anyone want to rape them?”

Burmese authorities have made similar denials in the past. When the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations, including Human Rights Watch, documented widespread rape and other sexual violence by security forces during military operations in Rakhine State starting in October 2016, officials cursorily dismissed the allegations.

On December 26, 2016, the Information Committee of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi issued a press release addressing “the rumours that some women were raped during the area clearance operations of security forces following the violent attacks in Maungtaw [Maungdaw] Township.” Accompanied by an image with the tagline “Fake Rape,” the release claimed that village leaders contested two rape survivors’ accounts and that the women provided conflicting testimony. Human Rights Watch assessed the evidence the Burmese government put forward at that time, finding fundamental flaws in methodology and reasoning that seriously undercut the credibility of the conclusions the government drew from it. In August 2017, a national-level investigation commission on the situation in Maungdaw Township following the October 2016 attacks headed by the first vice president and composed of current and former government officials released an interim report claiming they found insufficient evidence for legal action against anyone in connection with the allegations of rape and other abuses.

Documentation of Rape

Documentation of sexual violence, including collection and proper storage of evidence, is critical for investigations and any potential prosecutions or redress process. However, sexual violence survivors often face formidable barriers when seeking justice. As discussed above, sexual violence is often underreported. When survivors are able to report, sometimes too much time has passed for collection of forensic evidence.

In other cases, police or healthcare providers may not be trained in proper collection or storage of forensic evidence. Bangladesh and all humanitarian medical actors should also ensure that survivors receive medical certificates of rape as part of their care and that copies are kept securely by medical organizations or through secure digital storage systems.

Creating an environment where sexual violence survivors can safely and confidentially report rape and other forms of sexual assault in a timely manner is essential for future accountability efforts and to connect survivors to medical and psychosocial services.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Tales from Midwifes about the crisis

Midwives working in refugee camps in [Bangladesh](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Bangladesh) have recounted the harrowing experiences of pregnant [Rohingya](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/rohingya) women who fled from neighbouring [Myanmar](https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/Myanmar).

The mothers said they had seen family members raped and killed by Buddhist extremists and Myanmar’s security forces.

In posts on Facebook the midwives also described how mothers with newborn children arrived in Bangladesh without fresh clothing, and pregnant women were malnourished after having walked for days without food.

“We’ve had women come having lost their entire family,” Dr Sathya Doraiswamy, chief of health at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Bangladesh.

“The stories we’ve actually heard are various degrees of violence, ranging from emotional to physical to sexual violence.

“The main impact of what we see among the women and girls is that they have been subject to violence themselves, but in several other instances they have been witness to violence that has been inflicted on their very close family members.”

Over the last six months more than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar, where there have been widespread reports of killings, rape and the burning of homes, leading to accusations the state is guilty of “ethnic cleansing” or even genocide.

More than half of those affected by the crisis are women and girls, Dr Doraiswamy said. He said the UNFPA has helped deliver 1,827 babies and provided antenatal care for more than 51,000 Rohingya women.

A UNFPA-trained midwife said one Rohingya refugee came to her with labour pains soon after she and her husband arrived in Bangladesh. The mother, identified as Hasina Khatu, said the pain had started a day earlier when she was in Myanmar, and had increased slowly as she fled by boat.

“When I asked her about her family members, she told me that her only son who was aged two had been killed by the Myanmar army. She also lost her mother, father and sister. She told me her younger sister was raped and killed by the Myanmar army. When she told me this history she was crying.”

When the midwife gave Ms Khatu food, she said she had not eaten for at least two days. Later that night she delivered two premature boys. One weighed 2kg while the other weighed 2.2kg.

Another midwife described how one mother whose husband had been killed in Myanmar had no clothes to change her baby after she gave birth. “She had nothing in Bangladesh, she had lost everything in Myanmar,” the midwife said.

Other mothers arrived in Bangladesh with their children after walking for days without food.

One midwife said a mother and husband told her they had walked for four days with their newborn and older daughter after all of their family members were killed in Myanmar. “In four days they only drank a small amount of water and some dry food. I made sure they had food. I prayed that things would be better for them.”

Around 80 UNFPA-trained midwives have been providing sexual and reproductive health services through Bangladesh ministry of health facilities and in makeshift settlements formed near the refugee camps.

They also created around 19 women-friendly spaces where female refugees can share their experiences, and some choose to open up about the violence they have suffered.

Some were the victims of intimate partner violence, which Dr Doraiswamy said women in the camps were at a high risk of experiencing, and others had experienced sexual violence and rape at the hands of strangers.

“There is not adequate lighting in the camps, and the toilets are not always family toilets. Women have to walk long distances. Even to fetch water there is quite a bit of distance they have to walk. Along any of these points they face a very high risk,” Dr Doraiswamy explained.

However, he said the women-friendly spaces have been “quite effective”. He added: “For women who have undergone so much trauma, it actually brings about a calming experience when they come into these spaces. The sheer number of people we have been able to reach in the last six months has been quite telling in terms of the impact the UNFPA has had.”

The UNFPA has also distributed around 88,000 dignity kits, which contain clothes, soap, a comb and sanitary wear for women and girls.

Dr Doraiswamy called on the international community to provide funding to maintain UNFPA services, which he said are in high demand among women and girls in the camps.

He said “software sectors” such as women-friendly spaces were often seen as less important than work on shelters, water and sanitation, which he termed “hardware materials”.

He added: “For us to be able to maintain this on a medium to longer term, these kind of services need to be sustained, and the international community needs to pay close cognizance of this.

“Often, the presence of pregnant women or survivors of gender-based violence is forgotten. And that should not be the case.”[[6]](#footnote-6)

**Helping the Rohingya**

Here are some of the organizations responding to the Rohingya refugee crisis. Some are trying to gain access to restricted areas of the western state of Rakhine in Myanmar, where many ethnic Rohingya Muslims remain. Most of the aid has been focused on camps in Bangladesh where hundreds of thousands have fled over the past month.

More information can be found through services that track and rate charity groups, including [GuideStar](http://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx" \o "" \t "_blank) and [Charity Navigator](https://www.charitynavigator.org/).

[**BRAC**](https://bracusa.org/southasiarecovery/)**,** a group founded in Bangladesh, was ranked [the No.](https://www.ngoadvisor.net/ong/brac/) [1 nongovernmental organization in the world](https://www.ngoadvisor.net/ong/brac/) by NGO Advisor. Of the 1,300 staff members directly serving the refugee population in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, many are locals who speak a dialect similar to that of the Rohingya in Rakhine State. BRAC has also trained 800 Rohingya refugees as volunteers. The group is now focused on health, education and the protection of women and girls.

[**IOM**](http://www.usaim.org/Rohingya_Emergency), the United Nation’s migration agency, manages camps and shelters in Cox’s Bazar. In addition to providing healthcare and sanitation, the group is scaling up programs to protect girls, women and others vulnerable to trafficking. IOM employs Rohingya refugees on a casual basis, and most of the 500 employees in Cox’s Bazar are Bangladeshi.

[**Action Against Hunger**](https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/story/rohingya-refugee-crisis-bangladesh) is responding to the Rohingya crisis with 700 staff members and 1,000 volunteers on the ground in Bangladesh, delivering hot meals and water. Health workers are treating malnourished children, while mental health counselors are providing support to refugees suffering from acute stress and trauma. Having been in Bangladesh since 2007, Action Against Hunger is partnering with many local organizations and international groups in distributing food and water.

[**Unicef**](https://support.unicef.org/donate/help-rohingya-children)is prioritizing shelter, food and water in its efforts to protect children and women, according to Jean-Jacques Simon, Unicef’s communications chief in Bangladesh. In addition to distributing water daily, the group has plans to install water pumps and deep tube wells in the camps. Malnourished children are receiving therapeutic food and supplements. In a [news release on Sept. 17](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_100848.html), the group also announced plans to vaccinate 150,000 children against measles, rubella and polio.

[**Save the Children**](https://secure.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.9535467/k.A7EB/Rohingya_Crisis_Childrens_Relief_Fund/apps/ka/sd/donor.asp) has been working in Bangladesh since 1970. In addition to distributing essentials like [tents](https://twitter.com/SC_Humanitarian/status/911474141756194818), cooking kits and hygiene kits to the displaced Rohingya, Save the Children is paying special attention to helping children, particularly those who are not accompanied by family members. It says 1,400 staff members and volunteers are currently dedicated to the Rohingya response.

[**Doctors Without Borders**](https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/) (also known as Médecins Sans Frontières) has worked in Bangladesh since 1985. At least 2,000 staff members are treating ailments including severe dehydration, diarrheal diseases, violence-related injuries and cases of sexual violence, according to the group.

The [**International Rescue Committee**](https://www.rescue.org/country/myanmar) is helping the Rohingya remaining in Rakhine, with 400 staff members and volunteers providing medical care and emergency relief. Sanna Johnson, the group’s regional director for Asia, says its [operations are complicated](https://www.rescue.org/article/rohingya-refugee-crisis-violence-displaces-thousands-myanmars-rakhine-state) by restrictions from Myanmar’s government, which has banned international nongovernmental organizations from some areas of the state.

[**UNHCR**](http://www.unhcr.org/rohingya-emergency), the refugee agency for the United Nations has been working with Rohingya migrants since 1978. Of the UNHCR staff members responding to the most recent crisis, about 150 are in Bangladesh and nearly 30 are in Myanmar, according to Joung-ah Ghedini-Williams, an emergency response coordinator. In addition to [distributing emergency aid and shelter materials](http://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2017/9/59bb9b284/vital-unhcr-aid-arrives-coxs-bazar-additional-emergency-staff-deployed.html), the group gives [protection](http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/UNHCR%20Update%20on%20the%20Emergency%20Response%20in%20Bangladesh%20-%20September%202017.pdf#_ga=2.71496214.421518234.1506695262-1806034872.1506107588&_gac=1.207743654.1506107508.EAIaIQobChMI96aMz7-51gIVE8ayCh2FAgMsEAAYASAAEgLFXfD_BwE) and support to unaccompanied children, the elderly and survivors of rape and trauma.

[**World Food Program**](http://cdn.wfp.org/donate/) is a United Nations agency that has been distributing high-energy biscuits to migrants as they have arrived in Bangladesh. With 88 employees on the ground, it will continue to address food scarcity through subsidies in rice and nutritional powder.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**Links for Further Reading**

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/23/world/asia/rohingya-women-abuse-myanmar.html>
2. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/29/world/asia/rohingya-refugees-myanmar-bangladesh.html>
3. <https://www.unfpa.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-escalates-women-emerge-front-line-responders>
4. [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA Adolescent\_Girls\_in\_Disaster\_Conflict-Web.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA%20Adolescent_Girls_in_Disaster_Conflict-Web.pdf)
5. <https://www.oxfam.ca/emergencies/bangladesh-rohingya-crisis>
6. <http://www.broadagenda.com.au/home/rohingya-crisis-the-hidden-truth-about-women-as-weapons-of-war/>
7. <https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting_resources/our_rights_are_fundamental_to_peace_0.pdf>
8. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ArBF7XrlAd4WheCTyXjf_bHxG7CK_ToL/view?usp=sharing> (Important)
9. <https://www.cfr.org/blog/women-and-girls-risk-rohingya-refugee-crisis>
10. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2017/10/gender-advocacy-paper-for-rohingya-refugee-crisis-response-in-bangladesh-r10.pdf?la=en&vs=2521>

1. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/resources/docs/CFR_The%20Rohingya%20Migrant%20Crisis%20-%20Council%20on%20Foreign%20Relations.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.cfr.org/blog/women-and-girls-risk-rohingya-refugee-crisis> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2017/10/gender-advocacy-paper-for-rohingya-refugee-crisis-response-in-bangladesh-r10.pdf?la=en&vs=2521> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/burma1117_web_1.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/rohingya-refugee-crisis-muslim-pregnant-women-myanmar-midwives-burma-unfpa-a8242516.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/29/world/asia/rohingya-aid-myanmar-bangladesh.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)