



Forum: Human Rights Council (HRC)

Issue: Protecting the Right to Education for Rohingya Girls in Refugee Camps in Bangladesh

Student Officer: Maria Harbis

Position: President

Personal Introduction

Dear delegates,

My name is Maria-Evagelia Harbis, and I have the honour of serving as your president in the 2025 Logos Model United Conference for my last conference. I am a 17-year-old student at The Moraitis School, and I have been doing MUN for the past 4 years, attending conferences both as a chair and delegate across Greece. As this is my last conference, I am really excited to be chairing my favourite committee and thrilled to meet every single one of you, listening to your fruitful arguments and ideas for the crucial topics which my co-chairs and I have worked endlessly over the summer to provide for you.

Firstly, I would like to emphasise the importance of reading this study guide, and highlight how much I would appreciate you coming to the conference, both knowing your country's stance on this topic and any important information regarding the issue that will be discussed. To any students attending a conference for the first time, I can promise you it's not as overwhelming as it seems, and I would be more than happy to help you in any way, both prior to and during the conference.

This conference will allow you to make interesting memories with other delegates while forming alliances, resolutions and debating while learning from each other different things which will often help you in the future, in expressing concerns about serious topics which cause individuals to suffer immensely in different ways. The conference is a space where all students are encouraged to learn about pressing concerns and take home skills which can help them in their lives, such as teaching them how to express their views regardless of the area they are looking forward to studying.

For any questions you may want to ask, my email is provided below and do not hesitate to contact me for whatever reason via email: harbis.maria26@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing you all in November!

Best regards,
Maria Harbis

Introduction

In the words of Sultana Begum, a humanitarian policy and advocacy leader, *“Rohingya children and families remain in limbo – without safety, education, or livelihoods. Stateless and trapped between conflict and exile, they face growing insecurity, shrinking aid, and fading hope,*

while the world's attention slips away."¹ Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are individuals who have been forcibly displaced from their home country of Myanmar, leaving them stranded in a situation where they experience ethnic, as well as religious, persecution. Rohingya refugees' safety is at risk due to their lives and freedom being jeopardised, stemming from political instability. This enables conflicts both amongst states and within their own government. Children, who are forced to move to a new country and start their lives over, face numerous struggles with adapting into a new environment after the trauma which they have faced being forced to flee. In cases like these, refugee girls face severe problems, as there are many barriers which prevent them from accessing education and making it unsafe for them.

According to Article 26 of the Declaration of Human Rights, education is a human right, ensuring education for all in the hopes of empowering individuals and promoting social justice². Therefore, being in a state of force which restricts an individual's access to education is a critical issue which violates children's human rights. It is important to understand that such individuals deserve the same opportunities as anyone else, regardless of their gender, race, or ethnicity.

Furthermore, women's education has been a pressing concern for many years, which has caused various problems in human rights. Countries aim to provide education to everyone, male or female; however, there are complications involved which are harder to mitigate. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has aimed to look for different solutions such as using the Myanmar educational curriculum in Cox Bazar region, and providing online education to adolescents,³ in order to ensure that all girls in Bangladesh will have equal access to education.

Finally, even in refugee camps, child refugees receive a limited and often non-formal education. However, it is crucial to keep in mind that various government policies are set in place to prohibit their enrollment in public schools in order to prevent long-term integration into Bangladeshi culture.

Definition of Key Terms

Refugee

"Refugees are people who have fled their countries to escape conflict, violence, or persecution and have sought safety in another country."⁴

Environmental refugee

¹ "News Quote: Call for Attention on Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh." *Save the Children International*, 2025, www.savethechildren.net/news/news-quote-call-attention-rohingya-refugees-bangladesh. Accessed 1 Oct. 2025.

² UNESCO. "The Right to Education." *Www.unesco.org*, UNESCO, 2023, www.unesco.org/en/right-education.

³ "Education - UNHCR Bangladesh." *UNHCR Bangladesh*, 2025, help.unhcr.org/bangladesh/support-in-bangladesh/education/. Accessed 4 Oct. 2025.

⁴ UNHCR. "Refugees." *UNHCR*, 2024, www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/refugees.

“An individual displaced owing to environmental causes, notably land loss and degradation, and natural disaster.”⁵

Asylum seeker:

“A person who has left their country of origin and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country.”⁶

Migration

“The movement of people away from their usual place of residence to a new place of residence.”⁷

Language barriers

“The struggle of communicating due to people who are speaking in different languages.”⁸

Stateless refugees

“Stateless people are those who are not considered citizens in any country, and are defined as those not considered nationals by any state under its law.”⁹

Refugee camps

“Temporary facilities built to provide immediate protection and assistance to people forced to flee. Once a person becomes a refugee, they are likely to remain displaced for many years.”¹⁰

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1951	Refugees are entitled to basic human rights.
2001-2002	Scholarships are granted for Palestinian refugees in order for them to attain a higher education and vocational training. ¹¹
2008	Burma's constitution is revised by the government without consulting civil society leaders or members of minority groups. This ensures the

⁵ “Environmental Refugees.” *United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 6 Oct. 2015, archive.unescwa.org/environmental-refugees.

⁶ Amnesty International. “Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Migrants.” Amnesty International, 2024, www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/.

⁷ International Organization for Migration. “Fundamentals of Migration.” International Organization for Migration, 2025, www.iom.int/fundamentals-migration.

⁸ Webster, Merriam. “Definition of Language Barrier.” Merriam-Webster.com, 2019, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/language%20barrier.

⁹ UNHCR. “Stateless People.” UNHCR, 2024, www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/stateless-people.

¹⁰ ---. “What Is a Refugee Camp? Definition and Statistics | USA for UNHCR.” *Unrefugees.org*, 2013, www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/camps/.

¹¹ General, UN. “Offers by Member States of Grants and Scholarships for Higher Education, Including Vocational Training, for Palestine Refugees :: Resolution /: Adopted by the General Assembly.” United Nations Digital Library System, UN, 14 Feb. 2002, digitallibrary.un.org/record/454142?utm. Accessed 19 Sept. 2025.

	continuation of military control while simultaneously revealing opportunities for democratic changes. ¹²
2011	The Syrian civil war takes place. ¹³
2012	Conflicts arise between muslim and Buddhist communities. ¹⁴
2015	The European refugee migrant crisis.
2016	UNESCO recognises that education is crucial for refugees. ¹⁵
2017	The Rohingya crisis, one of the greatest violations of human rights, begins its rise. ¹⁶
2021	The COVID-19 pandemic changes education, introducing online learning. ¹⁷
2023	The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) advocates for making schools more inclusive towards refugees through teacher training and curriculum redesign. ¹⁸
2021-2027	A plan by the European Commission was set in order to ensure that children will have access to education from the early stages of their lives. ¹⁹

Background information

¹² United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "A Timeline of Rohingya History - Burma's Path to Genocide." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, 2020, exhibitions.ushmm.org/burmas-path-to-genocide/timeline.

¹³ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Syrian Civil War | Facts & Timeline." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Britannica, 6 Dec. 2018, www.britannica.com/event/Syrian-Civil-War.

¹⁴ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "A Timeline of Rohingya History - Burma's Path to Genocide." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, 2020, exhibitions.ushmm.org/burmas-path-to-genocide/timeline.

¹⁵ "International Expert Meeting to Put Spotlight on Right to Quality." *Unesco.org*, 2023, www.unesco.org/en/articles/international-expert-meeting-put-spotlight-right-quality-education-refugees?utm.

Accessed 19 Sept. 2025.

¹⁶ UNICEF. "Rohingya Crisis." *Unicef.org*, UNICEF, 2024, www.unicef.org/emergencies/rohingya-crisis.

¹⁷ Wide Eye Creative. "The Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee Education - Refugees International." *Refugees International*, 10 May 2021, www.refugeesinternational.org/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-refugee-education/?utm.

Accessed 19 Sept. 2025.

¹⁸ "UNESCO Renews Education Pledges to Support Refugees at Global Refugee." *Unesco.org*, 2023, www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-renews-education-pledges-support-refugees-global-refugee-forum-2023?utm. Accessed 19 Sept. 2025.

¹⁹ "Action Plan 2021-2027 Tracker: Education and Training." *Migration and Home Affairs*, 2021, home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migrant-integration/migrant-integration-hub/progress-tracker-action-plan-integration-and-inclusion-2021-2027/action-plan-2021-2027-tracker-education-and-training_en?prefLang=el&utm. Accessed 19 Sept. 2025.

The Rohingya Crisis

In 2017, a genocide attack occurred in Myanmar, causing millions of individuals to flee the state²⁰. Families, women, and children fled their homes, crossing the Bengal Bay to reach Bangladesh, in hopes of reaching safety. Approximately 1 million individuals have now found refuge in Bangladesh, living in the Cox-bazar region²¹. More specifically, a Muslim ethnic minority, the Rohingya, have long resided in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma²², which is mainly a Buddhist state. The Rohingya are the greatest stateless minority in the world, despite having resided in Myanmar for many generations, as they are not acknowledged as an official ethnic group and have been denied citizenship since 1982²³.

The 2017 events are considered some of the greatest human rights violations globally²⁴ and genocide in history. In several cases, villages and homes were burned to the ground by Buddhist extremists and thousands of families were killed or separated, forcing nearly a million to flee to maintain their own safety and freedom.²⁵

Effects of the lack of education

There are several negative effects which are caused due to the lack of education in women. Due to the lack of education in women, child pregnancies and increase in birth rates is caused due to the lack of education in women as they are married young due to the fact that they cannot rely on providing for themselves. In addition, women with low education do not attain education about their health and there's an increase in aids as they are unaware about hygiene and other factors which can improve their health.²⁶

Lack of Education in Women

In Bangladesh, women, mainly refugees from the Rohingya, fear attaining an education due to the high risk of being sexually assaulted by older men either in school or on their way to school. As a result, mothers believe that their daughters are safer at home instead of at school, which is one of the main reasons that women refrain from going to school. It is believed by mothers of adolescent girls that *"if keeping girls safe meant sacrificing her education, then so be*

²⁰ BBC. "Myanmar Rohingya: What You Need to Know about the Crisis." *BBC News*, 23 Jan. 2020, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561.

²¹ "The Rohingya Crisis: What to Know and How to Help | the IRC." *The Rohingya Crisis: What to Know and How to Help*, 2022, www.rescue.org/article/rohingya-crisis-what-know-and-how-help.

²² Steinberg, David. "Myanmar | Facts, Geography, & History." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019, www.britannica.com/place/Myanmar.

²³ *The Rohingya – Inclusive Citizenship and Human Rights*. www.inclusive-citizenship.no/therohingya/.

²⁴ ---. "Rohingya Refugee Crisis Explained." *Www.unrefugees.org*, 2024, www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/.

²⁵ UNICEF. "Rohingya Crisis." *Unicef.org*, UNICEF, 2024, www.unicef.org/emergencies/rohingya-crisis.

²⁶ Wodon, Quentin, et al. *THE COST of NOT EDUCATING GIRLS MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: THE HIGH COST of NOT EDUCATING GIRLS the COST of NOT EDUCATING GIRLS MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: THE HIGH COST of NOT EDUCATING GIRLS BACKGROUND to the SERIES*. 2018.

it".²⁷ There is great division between women and men in the educational sector of Bangladesh as women are prevented from going to school by their parents and due to this they are required to rely on men, and by marrying at a young age in order to live a comfortable life.

By the end of 2024, it is predicted that close to 50 million children will have been displaced globally, with 20% being in the Cox-Bazar region in Bangladesh,²⁸ with more than 400,000 of these individuals being girls.²⁹ All of these children, male or female, are without an education, resulting in struggles later in their lives related to achieving their goals due to the lack of education, which they face due to displacement and fear of getting violated with unwanted male attention.

It is important to recognise that education is a human right and all children are required to attend school for a minimum of 10 years of general education,³⁰ which varies depending on the state that each person is in. It is crucial for the education of individuals, and everyone is entitled to have an education.

Relevant stakeholders

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh there is a great education gap between men and women. Where men attain a greater education than women, and are also more employed in businesses. Due to the fact that women are less likely to go to school and have a degree and education, they rely on working men instead. This is due to the fact that it has become unsafe for women to be going to school so they can become assaulted.

Venezuela

Venezuela is a developing country which faces many problems in women's education due to the economic state of the country. Due to the lack of resources in Venezuela schools often cancel classes, weeks at a time due to the fact that there is no food and the textbooks are not used by the teachers themselves. Moreover, the educational gap has increased and women are less likely to go to school.³¹

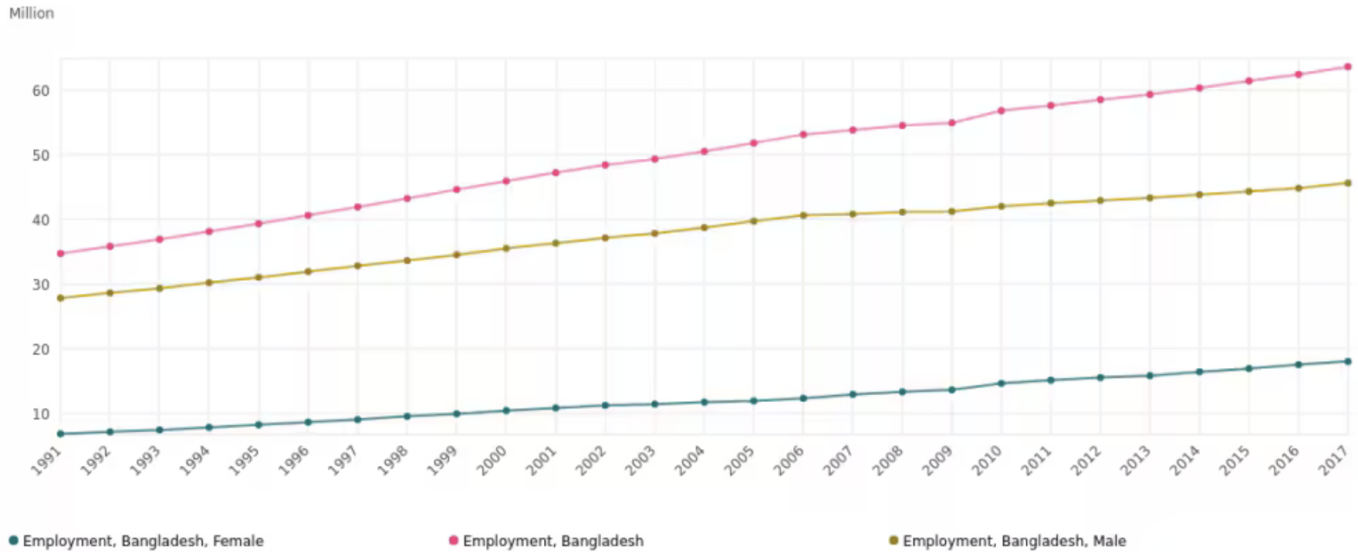
²⁷ "A Girl's Place Is in the Classroom: Making Education More Inclusive in the Rohingya Refugee Camps | UNICEF South Asia." www.unicef.org, www.unicef.org/rosa/stories/girls-place-classroom-making-education-more-inclusive-rohingya-refugee-camps.

²⁸ UNICEF. "Child Displacement - UNICEF Data." *UNICEF DATA*, June 2023, data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/displacement/.

²⁹ "A Girl's Place Is in the Classroom: Making Education More Inclusive in the Rohingya Refugee Camps | UNICEF South Asia." www.unicef.org, www.unicef.org/rosa/stories/girls-place-classroom-making-education-more-inclusive-rohingya-refugee-camps.

³⁰ *EDUCATIONAL ACCESS in BANGLADESH COUNTRY POLICY BRIEF*. 2008.

³¹ "Girls' Education in Venezuela Suffers amid Political Crisis." *The Borgen Project*, 3 June 2018, borgenproject.org/girls-education-in-venezuela/.



This graph shows the different rates of women compared to men in the workforce due to education³²

Australia

In Australia, it is evident that women have a greater, more advanced education than men, percentage wise. Where more women have more complex degrees in comparison to men. Specifically, 38% of men have received a bachelor's degree in comparison to women, where 51 percent have a degree³³. It is evident through this, that women have the opportunities to attend school with the same ease as men, as there is no gender discrimination regarding education.

Myanmar

Myanmar's gap in education has significantly changed over the years. In Myanmar, there have been several disruptions which have changed the education of children. The COVID-19 Pandemic and conflict by military takeover have altered the educational journey for many children and prevented future opportunities for them, as they need to sacrifice their education for their safety. Since the pandemic school enrolment has dropped approximately 80% and 7.8 million children are out of school. Moreover, there has been a shortage of teachers as there have been frequent attacks on schools, making it unsafe for them to attend.³⁴

United States of America (USA)

³² Layton, Lucas Arribas, et al. "How Is Bangladesh Closing the Education Gender Gap?" *World Economic Forum*, 14 July 2021, www.weforum.org/stories/2021/07/bangladesh-girls-education-women-work-world-bank/.

³³ *Bachelor Degree Completions Young Graduates Total Male Female*. 2023.

³⁴ intern1. "Education Crisis in Myanmar: A Surge in Out-of-School Children amidst Pandemic and Conflict." *Children of the Mekong*, 16 Jan. 2024, www.childrenofthemekong.org/education-crisis-in-myanmar-a-surge-in-out-of-school-children-amidst-pandemic-and-conflict/.

The United States tends to promote equality amongst genders when it comes to education, aiming for an equal number of students³⁵, the average gross enrollment rate of individuals who are attaining an education gradually decreases. Where at pre-primary level the rate of education stands at 42%, for secondary education, the rate is significantly lower at 37%.³⁶ There have been notable improvements at the tertiary level, with a 9% average gross enrollment rate of refugee children up from 7% the previous year³⁷. Moreover, it is important to note that women are less likely to stay in school compared to men due to them being forced to take care of siblings and focus on household chores.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR is an organization which is aiming to help the refugees. It aims to protect the peace and safety of individuals who have been forced to flee their homes by force and has helped 1 million individuals re-build a new life. The UNHCR has made it a goal to reduce the number of refugees without an education to 15%. They are trying to achieve this through advocating for new asylum-laws and systems in order for the displaced communities to have equal rights.³⁸

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF expresses how education is “a lifeline for children in crisis”, and so the organisation aims to raise awareness regarding how children should seek safety in education. According to UNICEF, *“Education boosts economic growth and reduces poverty and inequality. It increases individuals’ ability to lead a healthy life, participate in society and restore peace and stability.”*³⁹

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

UNESCO is an organization which aims to improve states through education, science and culture as well as fostering world peace. UNESCO advocates for refugee individuals, but not only that, they also set a global standard in order to provide guidance to states about the requirements of their educational programmes and coordinate at an international level. Furthermore, they monitor through research the levels of education and provide resolutions and treaties in order to ensure that the human right of education is not being violated in the lives of refugees.⁴⁰

³⁵ ACLU. “Title IX - Gender Equity in Education.” *American Civil Liberties Union*, 2019, www.aclu.org/title-ix-gender-equity-education.

³⁶ “Refugee Education | INEE.” *Inee.org*, inee.org/collections/refugee-education.

³⁷ “Education | USA for UNHCR.” *Www.unrefugees.org*, www.unrefugees.org/what-we-do/education/.

³⁸ ---. “What We Do.” *UNHCR*, 2023, www.unhcr.org/what-we-do.

³⁹ “Education in Emergencies.” *Unicef.org*, 2024, www.unicef.org/education/emergencies?utm. Accessed 20 Sept. 2025.

⁴⁰ “New Policy Paper on Enforcing the Right to Education of Refugees.” *Unesco.org*, 2023, www.unesco.org/en/articles/new-policy-paper-enforcing-right-education-refugees?utm. Accessed 20 Sept. 2025.

BRAC

BRAC is an NGO which aims to reduce barriers regarding women's education. The organization tries to allow women to have equal access to education and close gender education gaps in rural areas by promoting gender equality. They have managed to increase the women's education rates, where 60% of students in schools are women.

Relevant UN resolutions, treaties, and events

Resolution * (General Assembly)

On the 9th of July 2010, a resolution was formed by the General Assembly expressing how all individuals have the right to enjoy their access to education, as it is highlighted that education is a right of all individuals, as mentioned in the Declaration of Human Rights. It provides solutions to issues such as financing, educational environment and the issue of education in post-emergency situations. Due to the fact that the COVID-19 crisis improved, the number of children did increase in schools. ⁴¹

Declaration of human rights

The universal declaration of human rights is a set of articles which should be implied to all states expressing clearly the rights of all individuals. The main clause which states the equality regarding education is that "education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms".

Possible solutions

Refugee camps

Due to the less economically developed state in which refugees live, individuals who are living in refugee camps should have the ability to expand their education in the camps themselves. Due to the informal classes which are taught in several different languages, girls would have the chance to learn English and get a high school diploma from classes which are provided in the refugee camps. This will also encourage the refugees, as they will have the ability to learn amongst other refugees in a safer environment with people who have gone through the same trauma as them. They will be able to learn such classes in English in order to ensure that if they move states in the future, they will be able to continue their education in their new location.

Implementing Educator Education regarding Refugee Students

State schools can implement courses which will explain to educators how to properly adapt their academic curricula to children with language barriers. This will further enable educators to learn how to help them both psychologically, due to the trauma which they have experienced, but also through the different problems which they may face, such as bullying and discrimination in their host country. In addition, both state schools and public schools should be urged to encourage diversity and express their intolerance to bullying, with teachers taking strict measures, recognising that bullying is a crucial factor which not only makes students unwilling to

⁴¹ "Document Viewer." *Un.org*, 2025, docs.un.org/en/A/RES/78/156.

go to work but also worsens the struggle which they have since they are suddenly placed in a new environment with different people. Overall, diversity in schools is very important as it would be essential for new students to feel safer in school, encouraging them by both teachers and peers to expand on their education.

Enhancing Funding in Scholarships and Academic Opportunities

Students of private and public education institutions often face financial limitations when it comes to education. Thus, in order to enable the opportunity of schooling for each child, emphasis should be placed on the funding of scholarships, as this enables the children of refugees to have equal opportunities. Specifically, in international schools, children will be able to learn amongst other international students who have also come from different countries, making their shared experience helpful to incorporate a safer environment, as each student will spend time being amongst students of other countries, thus encouraging their learning further, promoting international mindedness, and eliminating discrimination.

Implementation of Online Learning

In order to ensure that there will not be a gap in students who spend the majority of their lives moving from one place to another, an online method of learning can be implemented. More specifically, students will be allowed a specific pass which will allow them to attain a high school diploma digitally. Furthermore, this pass can enable students to access supplies and materials for their education, such as notebooks, textbooks, and stationery. Additionally, they will be given the chance to access public libraries and be able to continue expanding their education regardless of financial stability. It is important to note that the Digital Divide in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) must be addressed in parallel to online learning possibilities.

Implementation of All-Girls Schools

All girls' schools with a great number of scholarships should be provided in order to ensure that all women are safe whilst going to school, trying to ensure that the majority of staff are also women will greatly help families in feeling safer as their children are going to school. This can make the environment safer for women, ensuring that they will not be violated and therefore be successful and safe in pursuing an education. There are also chances where women are assaulted on their way to school, women should be provided safe transportation from and to school. This can ensure that all women will be safe from and to going to school.

Further reading

Articles

[News Quote: Call for attention on Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh | Save the Children International](#)

[Right to education | UNESCO](#)

[How UNICEF's initiative is expanding education for Rohingya Girls - The Borgen Project](#)

[A girl's place is in the classroom: Making education more inclusive in the Rohingya refugee camps | UNICEF South Asia](#)

[Her Turn: Why it's time to educate refugee girls |](#)

[The Resilience of Rohingya Girls Pursuing Education](#)

[Educational crisis of Rohingya refugee children in Bangladesh: Access, obstacles, and prospects to formal and non-formal education - ScienceDirect](#)

Videos

[Empowering Girls' Education in Rohingya Refugee Camps](#)

[Empowering Young Girls in Rohingya Refugee Camps with Education and Skills](#)

[Rohingya facing 'lost generation' of children out of school](#)

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