



Certificate Course on the Rohingya Crisis
Organized by
Center for Peace Studies (CPS), SIPG, North South University
and
The Human Rights Practice Program at The University of Arizona

June 19 – September 4, 2021

Background and Course Description:

Forcibly displaced people and refugees have perhaps received much attention in the academic as well as political field in the last two decades nationally and globally. From Syria to Afghanistan or from South Sudan to Myanmar – there are 26 million refugees among the 79.5 million forcibly displaced people around the world, which includes millions of stateless people (UNHCR, June 2020). While it is not possible to resolve the crisis of the forcibly displaced people overnight, surely raising awareness and gaining knowledge on this issue are necessary for people who care about the forcibly displaced people, refugees, and stateless people.

After having successfully completed a 10-week certificate course on Humanitarianism, Policy, and Diplomacy in early 2021, the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) aims to organize a certificate course on the crisis of forcibly displaced people. CPS, a platform that promotes peace through people, understands and helps others to develop their understanding of issues related to peacebuilding. Therefore, CPS engages with state and non-state actors, as well as regional and global stakeholders for the promotion of peace.

Considering the increasing number of forcibly displaced people in Southeast Asia, some of the unavoidable issues are the failure of the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to assure everyone's human rights, which is stated in Article 13, "Everyone has the right of freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state". Moreover, as stated in the second clause, "Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country". Another pertinent issue is how the legal, moral, and political philosophies are viewed nationally, bilaterally, regionally, and globally regarding the forced displacement issue in Southeast Asia, particularly the Rohingya issue, which has become a visible example of human rights violations. The certificate course, organized by CPS in partnership with the University of Arizona, on the Rohingya crisis seeks to address these issues.

While Bangladesh has been generously hosting Myanmar's Rohingya community over the last four decades, the gravity and complexity of the Rohingya situation has escalated since 2016-2017 with the arrival of more Rohingya due to ethnic cleansing and genocide against them in Myanmar. This event has turned Bangladesh into the highest Rohingya receiving country in the world. Hosting roughly 880,000 Rohingya in Cox's Bazar as of February, 2021 (UN News, March 2021) has been a challenge for Bangladesh – a country with a large population and limited resources. Yet, the Rohingya in Bangladesh, except for a very few, have not been recognized as “refugees”. They are rather referred to as FDMN (Forcefully Displaced Myanmar's Nationals). This government decision is linked to internal and global policies as well as legal frameworks.

It is important to note that neither Bangladesh nor Myanmar are signatories to the 1951 Convention nor the 1967 Protocol related to the status of refugees. While such a non-signatory status creates the ground for both countries to deny their responsibilities concerning admission and protection of refugees; it is based on an outdated “post-war European political philosophy” (The Daily Observer, August 25, 2002). The fact is the country receiving one of the world's largest number of forcibly displaced people is not located in Europe. Moreover, on the one hand, people require evidence to prove individual persecution against them, and on the other, the admitting countries follow a complicated administrative process to examine and verify the persecuted ones (Benhabib, 2020). However, under the current circumstances “in what sense then are these categories adequate to deal with the rights of the most vulnerable” (Benhabib, 2020, p. 84)?

Apart from the complicacy in and/or the absence of legal frameworks, the historical, geographical, and political aspects also play a significant role in Rohingya persecution in Myanmar as well as creates uncertainty about the Rohingya repatriation to Myanmar. Historically, the Rohingya are descendants of the Arab and Persian traders that included Indian and Bengali migrants who settled in the Arakan region between the ninth and fifteenth centuries (Ahmed, 2009; Ullah, 2011; Kipgen, 2013), a fact which has been constantly denied by the Myanmar government. Geographically, among five neighbor states, such as Bangladesh, Thailand, India, China, and Laos, Myanmar shares the longest border with China (2,129 km) and the second shortest border with Bangladesh (271 km) affecting the political relations with Myanmar's neighbors. “Refugee problems are in fact intensely political” (Malkki, 1995, p. 504), and Rohingya people “have become pawns in the game of colonial and post-colonial politics and are stateless because of a history over which they had little control” (Pittaway, 2008, p. 86).

Against this backdrop, CPS, for the first time in Bangladesh, is going to organize a 12-week course in partnership with the University of Arizona to look at the dynamics of the national, bilateral, regional, and global politics and policies including economic and security issues related to the Rohingya crisis. It will also examine the history and culture of the Rohingya, their identity construction amid their statelessness, as well as the legal, moral, and ethical dimensions of issues such as peacebuilding and social cohesion, etc. It will also include issues such as accountability and justice, policy options, role of the diaspora, involvement of international agencies and the

UN. The course will offer a practical component that includes visiting the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

Specific Objectives

- Developing a better understanding of the Rohingya crisis
- Gaining knowledge on the context, and geopolitics of the Rohingya crisis
- Critically analyzing the national, bilateral, regional, and global politics and policies related to the Rohingya crisis

Expected Outcome of the Course

In this course, participants will acquire knowledge about the Rohingya issue from academics, researchers, and practitioners. This knowledge will help them to analyze how issues related to politics and policies are embedded in the Rohingya crisis. They will also improve their understanding about how the Rohingya crisis is not simply a humanitarian crisis, rather a problem rooted deeply in history, politics and power. By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Better understand the complex nature and impacts of the Rohingya crisis.
- Develop critical perspectives on geopolitics and policies related to the Rohingya crisis.
- Evaluate critically the actions undertaken by different stakeholders – nationally and globally – to resolve the crisis.
- Examine possible alternatives for a solution to this crisis.

Target Audience:

- Professionals (NGO and government officials, journalists, academicians, diplomats, etc.)
- Students who wish to gain knowledge on the Rohingya issue
- People seeking a career in the area of migration and forced displacement

Approach/ structure:

- Interactive discussions, Questions and Answer
- Field visit/ Applied learning
- In-class exercise

Chatham House Rule will be followed in this course.

Expected Number of Participants: 40

Course Duration: 12 weeks (Sessions will be held on Saturdays from 10am – 1.30am BST with a 30-minute break in between)

Schedule: June 19 to September 4, 2021

Evaluation: Certificate will be awarded based on participants' active participation, regular attendance, and performance.

Performance will be evaluated out of 50 and evaluation will follow the following standard:

Participation: 20

Attendance (all classes): 12

Assignment and reflection papers: 18

Field Visit: Tentative field visit date is third week of August, 2021. There will be options for the participants to join the field visit at the Rohingya camp. Participants not joining the field visit will write an alternative assignment and those who will join the field visit will prepare a field visit report. Details for the outlines of both the assignment and the report will be provided by the course coordinator.

Course Content and Session Plan:

Date	Session Topics	Resource Persons
Day 1		
June 19	History, Language, and Identity Overview of the Rohingya Rohingya identity in Rohingya voice History, language, and Identity of the Rohingya	Moderator: Dr. Katherine Li, NSU CPS Resource Persons: Amb Sufiur Rahman, Former ambassador to Myanmar
Day 2		
June 26	The current situation in Myanmar in the context of the Rohingya crisis Post-coup situation in Myanmar Perception and engagement of the Rohingya: <i>Academician's perspectives</i> Violence, protest, accountability in Myanmar relating to the Rohingya: Evidence based reports <i>Experience and role of the Rohingya diaspora</i>	Moderator: Amb Shahidul Haque, NSU Resource Persons: Ms. Debbie Stothard Coordinator/Founder, ALTSEAN Dr. Mahbulul Haque, Faculty of UNISZA, Malaysia Mr. John Quinley III, Senior Human Rights Specialist, Fortify Rights Mr. Shamsul Anwar (U Kyaw Min), Former MP in 1990's election in Myanmar Ms. Sharifah Shakira, Founder, Rohingya Women's Development Network, Texas Ms. Zaitun Pwin, Graduate student, Canada
Day 3		
July 3	Geopolitics of Regional and Global Powers Regional and global powers: A critical perspective	Moderator: Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, The University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Resource Persons: Dr. Kawser Ahmed, CRRIC, Canada

Date	Session Topics	Resource Persons
	Geopolitics, global power and security: Consequences on the Rohingya crisis Interventions and geopolitics of the regional forums	Dr. Sakhawat Hussain, NSU Amb Shahidul Haque, NSU
Day 4		
July 10	Impacts and Consequences of the Rohingya Exodus to Bangladesh (Gender, Health, Education, Economy, Environment)	Moderator: Dr. SK Tawfique M Haque, Professor, NSU Resource Persons: Mr. Mohammad Abul Kalam ndc, former RRRC Dr. Helal Mohiuddin, NSU Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh Mr. Manuel Marques Pereira, Deputy Chief of Mission at IOM Professor Amena Mohsin, University of Dhaka Ms. Tata Zafar, NSU
Day 5		
July 17	Role of Media in Rohingya Crisis Overview of role of the media in Rohingya crisis Portrayal of the Rohingya in global media Rohingya in the national media	Moderator: Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, NSU Resource Persons: Dr. Harisur Rahman, NSU Mr. Sam Jahan, Agence France-Presse (AFP) Mr. Raheed Ejaz, Prothom Alo, Bangladesh
Day 6		
July 24	Role and Significance of Rohingya Diaspora, UN, and Other International communities Role of international communities Rohingya diaspora: Initiatives and challenges Role of various international organizations	Moderator: Dr. SK. Tawfique M Haque, Professor, NSU Resource Persons: Ambassador Bob Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, and Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar in 2017 Mr. Nurul Islam, Rohingya politician, UK Ms. Zainab Arkani, Founder, Rohingya language school, Canada Amb Shahidul Haque, NSU

Date	Session Topics	Resource Persons
Day 7		
July 31	<p>Governance and Management of Rohingya in Bangladesh</p> <p>Overall governance structure</p> <p>Camp coordination and management</p>	<p>Moderator: Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Coordinator, CPS, NSU</p> <p>Resource Persons: Amb Shahidul Haque, NSU</p> <p>Mr. Shah Rezwan Hayat, RRRC, and Mr. Manuel Marques Pereira, Deputy Chief of Mission at IOM</p>
Day 8		
Aug 7	<p>Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding between Host and Rohingya Community</p> <p>Prospects and challenges of social cohesion</p> <p>Conflict Management between Rohingya and Host community</p> <p>Social cohesion through arts</p>	<p>Moderator: Professor William Simmons, The University of Arizona, USA and Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, NSU</p> <p>Resource Persons: Dr. Bulbul Siddiqi, NSU</p> <p>Dr. M Jashim Uddin, NSU</p> <p>Dr. Max Frieder, Artolution</p>
Day 9		
Aug 14	<p>Accountability and Justice for the Rohingya</p> <p>Status of accountability and justice situation in Myanmar</p> <p>Justice for the Rohingya: Rohingya diaspora perspective</p> <p>Development in ICC</p>	<p>Moderator: Professor William Simmons, The University of Arizona, USA</p> <p>Resource Persons: Amb Shahidul Haque, NSU</p> <p>Mr. Anwar Shah Arkani, Rohingya Community Leader</p> <p>Amb Riaz Hamidullah, The Netherlands</p>
Day 10		
Aug 21	<p>Policy Options for Resolution of the Rohingya Crisis</p>	<p>Moderator: Barrister Manzoor Hasan, Executive Director, Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University</p> <p>Resource Persons: Amb Shahidul Haque, NSU</p>

Date	Session Topics	Resource Persons
		M. Delwar Hossain, Director General (Myanmar Cell), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh Dr. Mohsin Habib, Professor, Western Sydney University, Australia and Adjunct Professor at Laurentian University, Canada Dr. Md. Rizwanul Islam, NSU Ms. Farah Kabir, ActionAid Bangladesh Mr. Johannes Van Der Klaauw, UNHCR
	Day 11	
Sept 4	Field Visit: 3 nights	Facilitators: CPS
	Day 12	
Sept 11	Course Evaluation, Assessment, Feedback, and Closing Ceremony	

8. Requirements to Achieve Certificate:

- Attendance:** Participants will be required to attend **all sessions** to obtain a completion certificate.
- Weekly reflection paper:** Participants will be required to submit a reflection paper each week based on their participation in and understanding of each week's session.
- Field visit report:** Participants will be required to submit field visit report on time.

- 9. Participants:** Government officials, NGO workers, and Master's students. Undergraduate students having completed at least 80 credits and are able to demonstrate a strong interest in issues related to migration and forced displacement, etc. are also eligible to apply.

Reading materials: Resource persons will provide/suggest the reading materials for respective sessions as the sessions move ahead.

References

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- Benhabib, S. (2020). The End of the 1951 Refugee Convention? Dilemmas of Sovereignty, Territoriality, and Human Rights. *Springer Nature Switzerland AG*, 2, pp. 75 – 100. Retrieved from. <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s42439-020-00022-1.pdf>
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- UNHCR. (June 18, 2002). Figures at a glance. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>