

The United Nations [describes] the Rohingya as
“the most persecuted minority in the world.”

–UNHCR and United Nations



COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

SOFI ADAMS
HISTORY AND NEUROBIOLOGY

Humanitarianism & Medicine

Hierarchies of Control in the Rohingya Crisis

Who Are the Rohingya?

- **Indigenous** minority group
- Arakan/Rakhine State
- 2017 mass exodus into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
 - World's largest refugee camp
- Generational persecution
 - Political and cultural

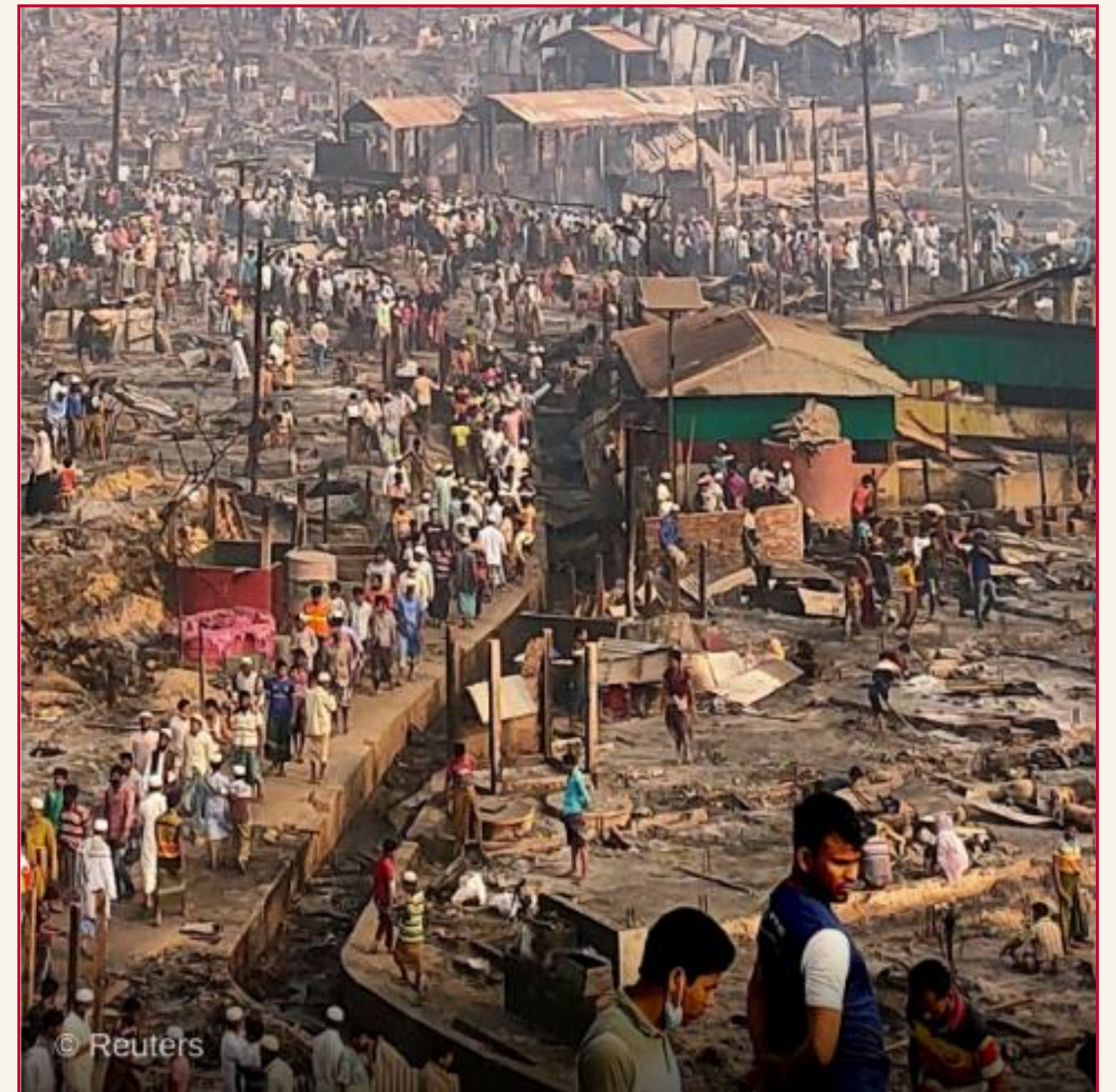


Roots of the Rohingya Crisis

1978 Operation Nagmin
(Dragon King)

1991 Operation Pyi Thaya
(Clean and Beautiful Nation)

2017 Largest Rohingya exodus
into Bangladesh



Humanitarianism Through Medicine



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



unicef



World Health Organization



TRANSLATORS
WITHOUT BORDERS



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Historical Question and Argument

In what ways does the relief provided to the Rohingya, by international organizations, governments, and NGOs, simultaneously sustain and control them?

The Rohingya crisis demonstrates how humanitarianism operates within a paradox; the alleviation of suffering while continuing to reproduce systems and hierarchies of control.

Medical Aid

- Childbirth
- Contraception
- NGO Empowerment Workshops





Childbirth

- Low utilization of maternal and reproductive health initiatives
- Preference for home birth
 - Family presence
 - Purdah
 - Fragmented information
- Traditional birth attendant → Dai ma
 - Lack of “formal” training
 - Devaluing of community-based systems

Contraception

- Injection, oral contraception, IUDs
- Fertility as a function of health
- Coercive contraception practices



Social

- Husband disapproval
- Children = community preservation

Religious

- Gifts from Allah
- Implants and death

NGO Empowerment Workshops

- Women only
- Outside of social gender norms → Western expectations
 - Assistance tied to compliance
 - Performative nature
 - Exploitation of victimhood
- Taleem
 - Maintaining cultural continuity



Conclusion

Rohingya women are not passive recipients but actively navigate, reinterpret, and at times resist these interventions, forging new expressions of identity and belonging within the constraints of humanitarian rule

So What?

- The Rohingya Crisis was recognized by international law as a genocide in 2018
- Despite this it remains largely unknown in global public discourse
- Case study of the consequences of genocide and resulting identity negotiation

