



Pray for Rohingya

EXPECTANTLY SOWING

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Global Day of Prayer for the Rohingya

2 OCTOBER 2022

Our fathers confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. *Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them. (Heb 11:13-16 NRSV)*

You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household. (Eph 2:19 NIV)

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN AND INTO THE FIRE

One effect of the decades-long persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar is that they have fled to wherever they could go to. Today, we can find Rohingya in more than 20 countries across the globe. Unfortunately, in most cases they find themselves in another difficult situation in the places where they hoped to find peace and refuge. Many Rohingya feel unsafe, homeless and restless.

HOPE FOR RETURN?

After last year's coup in Myanmar, the situation there is desperate. The country is in economic turmoil and most regions have descended into a civil war. Repatriation talks for the refugees remain stalled. Though the democratic parallel government has signalled an unprecedented willingness to find a sustainable solution for the Rohingya, this remains a distant dream as long as the military junta has the power.

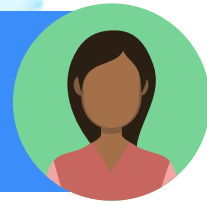
CITIZENSHIP IN GOD'S KINGDOM

The Rohingya are described as one of the most neglected and unwanted peoples on earth. However, God's Word tells us that our loving Heavenly Father is waiting with open arms to welcome them, not only as citizens into His Kingdom, but even to make them His children and heirs! Nobody can deny them this heavenly citizenship!



Jalal (23) works illegally on a construction site in Malaysia. He doesn't have any papers and gets only little and irregular salary. Due to his constant fear of arrest, he doesn't dare to leave the cramped container cluster where he lives with many others like him.

Habiba (17) works as a housemaid in a rich family's house in Saudi Arabia – seven days a week from 4am to 11pm. She regularly gets sexually assaulted by the father of the family, and beaten by his wife. Being a Rohingya, she knows that the police wouldn't help her. She has nowhere to go.



Mahmud (56) sits in front of his hut in the overcrowded refugee camp in Bangladesh. His leg still hurts since he was shot while fleeing from Myanmar in 2017. He gazes at the distant Rakhine mountains across the border. Despite the violence he has experienced, he feels homesick. His greatest wish is to go back to his home village and die there.

Minara (35) is one of the few "lucky" Rohingya who got asylum in a western country. Though she is safe and well cared for in the little town in the UK, she is depressed. She struggles with the English language, the strange food and the cold weather. Every day she makes long video calls to her relatives in Myanmar and Bangladesh. But that makes her miss them even more.



PRAYER POINTS

Home in Exile

- Praise God for sending Rohingya to places where they are relatively safe and have better access to a Gospel witness.
- Pray for the many Rohingya who are barely tolerated in many Asian countries. They face arbitrary arrests, exploitation and abuse.
- Pray for safety and protection, fair wages, sufficient health care and education opportunities.
- Pray for mental health despite homesickness, depression and fear.
- Pray that God would reveal His love and concern for them through His Word and His children reaching out to them.

Home in their Homeland

- Praise God for the relative calm in Rakhine State.
- Pray for the remaining Rohingya in Myanmar to be safe and their daily needs to be met.
- Pray for an end to the violence and unjust government, for a peaceful solution to the conflict.
- Pray for a sustainable solution for the Rohingya, that they will soon be able to return to their homeland as citizens with their full rights.
- Pray for strength for the believers among the Rohingya in Myanmar and those from other nations who are reaching out to them.

Home in Heaven

- Praise God for His amazing grace to offer Rohingya an eternal home and citizenship, and even sonship.
- Pray for a spiritual hunger and a yearning for peace and belonging on a level much deeper than their material needs.
- Pray for the Rohingya believers to be strong and bold in their faith and to be salt and light for the people around them.
- Pray for effective witness and outreach to the Rohingya everywhere: in personal witness, in acts of kindness, in production and distribution of Scripture materials, etc.

Thank you for praying with us!
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