

H.R. 8936 - FACTSHEET The Rohingya GAP Act



Lead Sponsor: Rep. Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee
Republican Co-lead: Rep. Michael McCaul, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Background: Following the U.S. Government's determination of genocide and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya in March 2022, international funding for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh has decreased despite growing needs. U.S. support has been limited to humanitarian funding and the opening of a pathway to resettlement for a small number of Rohingya. This support lacks a comprehensive approach to support ethnic Rohingya in overcoming genocide, crimes against humanity, and decades of systemic persecution, marginalization, and military impunity. In prevent the situation from growing more protracted, the Rohingya crisis and the broader Burma crisis must be addressed simultaneously, not in sequence. H.R. 8936, the bipartisan Rohingya GAP Act, seeks to accomplish just this by establishing a holistic U.S. policy that will support the Rohingya community and create a pathway out of genocide.

Bill Highlights:

- Authorizes the designation of a Special Coordinator for Rohingya Atrocities Prevention and Response at the State Department to coordinate Rohingya policy;
- Calls for a holistic U.S. strategy to support Rohingya that includes protection efforts; engagement with the Rohingya community and stakeholders to facilitate safe, voluntary and sustainable repatriation to Burma; developing a comprehensive transitional justice strategy; humanitarian assistance, including basic needs and access to livelihoods; programs to prevent and respond to gender based violence and trafficking; and support for Rohingya civil society organizations.
- Calls on USAID and the Department of State to ensure that Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh receive a ration sufficient to meet the humanitarian minimum standards for food and nutrition.
- Authorizes higher education scholarships for Rohingya refugees through 2030;
- Establishes a new Conflict Observatory for Burma to monitor and report on the ongoing violence in Burma; and
- Authorizes \$10 million per year for 5 years for the Department of State to support atrocity crime investigations, documentation, and casework, transitional justice and accountability mechanisms, witness protection measures, and technical support related to Rohingya.

Outside Support: Several Rohingya and human rights organizations support H.R. 8936, including:

Alliance for Peacebuilding	Americans for Rohingya
Campaign for a New Myanmar	Global Center for Responsibility to Protect
Human Rights Watch	International Campaign for the Rohingya
Jacob Blaustein Institute	Jewish Rohingya Justice Network
Jewish World Watch	No Business With Genocide
PAEMA (formerly Never Again Coalition)	Peace Direct
The Public International Law & Policy Group	Refugees International
The Sentry	US Campaign for Burma
Women's Peace Network	