



United Nations  
Human Rights Council  
**(UNHRC)**



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## Letters From Your Chairs

### *From your chair, Tenzin Menrinetsang:*

Hi and welcome to HMUNC! My name is Tenzin Menrinetsang and I am a junior at Herricks High School. I am so excited to be one of your chairs for the Human Rights Council this year. I know everything is really different because we are virtual, but I still hope for a really fun and engaging discussion and MUN experience for all of us! Model UN is one of my favorite extracurriculars because it keeps me involved with the world around me and allows me to examine and discuss global issues from various perspectives. I have attended several college and high school conferences- from PMUNC (hosted by Princeton) to BUSUN (hosted by Brown). Outside of MUN, I love binge re-watching my favorite TV shows and wasting all my money on Starbucks coffee and clothes :) Anyways, feel inclined to use this background guide as an aide to help you further understand the topics of debate. I hope you all enjoy this year's Model UN conference and I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

### *From your chair, Sasha Stern:*

Hello, my name is Sasha Stern, and welcome to HMUNC! I am a freshman at Herricks High School, and I am delighted to be one of the chairs for the Human Rights Council. This is my first time being a chair, and even though everything is virtual, I am still thrilled about the debates soon to come! I have attended multiple college conferences, including BUSUN and WAMUNC. One of the incredible things about MUN is that students are able to come together and try to figure out solutions for complicated world issues that may not even be solved in the real world. Outside of MUN, I enjoy fencing, playing my viola, and engaging with the culinary arts. You are welcome to use this background guide to gather knowledge on the topics and your position so you can do your best in debate. I cannot wait to meet all of you and I hope you enjoy this year's HMUNC!



## How to Use This Guide

**Dear Delegates,**



This is the background guide for UNHRC at HMUNC 2021. As your chairs, we have spent a lot of time writing and gathering research in order to create the best possible guide for you, in hopes that it will aid you in your research and debate. We hope that you take some time to read this, as it'll provide a helpful guideline to the topics you will be discussing in debate as well as the potential solutions you may propose. This background guide should serve as one of the many sources you should utilize in order to conduct your research in preparation for our conference!

This background guide is filled with important statistics and subtopics that you may use in debate, and it provides delegates with a holistic understanding of both topics. In your position paper, you must include why your country thinks that these issues are important, how you have already tried to solve the problems and what possible solutions can you use to make the world a better place, and minimize the problem. This background guide will help you understand the basic ideas of the issues, and it is your job to be creative and figure out different solutions. In order to aid you with your process of writing a position paper and finding solutions, we will have questions to consider at the end of every topic as well as descriptions of your position at the end of the background guide! We look forward to hearing the ideas you bring to the table! Good luck!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to [unhrc.hmunc16@gmail.com](mailto:unhrc.hmunc16@gmail.com)!

**Sincerely your chairs,**

**Tenzin Menrinetsang and Sasha Stern**



## How to Write A Position Paper

Delegates are required to write at least ONE position paper that addresses one topic to attend HMUNC.

Position papers must be *no longer than one page*, written in Times New Roman, font size 12, and standard margins. Position papers should follow the format below:

### Position Paper

**A good position paper will include:**

- Paragraph 1:
  - Citation from major documents such as the UN Charter and other treaties. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is especially relevant here
  - Why Topic A (Myanmar Crisis) and Topic B (Human Trafficking) issues are important to this committee particularly and to the global community – this can include some examples or statistics if appropriate which should be cited.
- Paragraph 2
  - How the issue affects your country, if it does;
  - Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
  - Possible quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
  - Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
  - Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
  - Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
  - UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
- Paragraph 3
  - What your country believes should be done to address the issue (what actions would your country like the global community to take to address this issue);
  - What your country would like to accomplish in the committee

**Position Papers are due May 26th and must be e-mailed to:**

**[unhrc.hmunc16@gmail.com](mailto:unhrc.hmunc16@gmail.com)**



## Committee Background

### What is the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)?

The UNHRC is a UN body that was established in 2006 to promote human rights internationally. The UNHRC works to identify and combat **crimes against humanity**. It has worked with other UN bodies to

**Crimes against humanity:**  
certain acts that are purposely  
committed as part of a  
widespread or systematic policy,  
directed against civilians, in  
times of war or peace.

investigate human rights abuses, such as those that limit freedom of speech/expression, freedom of religion, women's rights, and LGBT rights. The committee aims to "develop international human rights law, review the human rights records of member States, work to prevent abuses, respond to emergencies, and serve as an international forum for dialogue on human rights issues"<sup>1</sup>.

**How was the UNHRC created?** In March 2006, the UN General Assembly (GA) met to reform the **Commission on Human Rights**. The Commission had failed to protect human rights. The



Commission was made up of member states that were notorious human rights abusers<sup>2</sup>. As a result, the Human Rights Council was established to replace the CHR. The Council has to enforce a **Universal Periodic Review**, which evaluates the protection of human rights by its member states. An **Advisory Committee** was created to

provide the Council with advice, and a **Complaint Procedure** was created<sup>3</sup>.

**Which Agencies Help UNHRC?** The Human Rights Council works with several other UN agencies to protect human rights including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund



<sup>1</sup> "Human Rights Council." *OHCHR*, [www2.ohchr.org/english/press/hrc/kit/QA.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/press/hrc/kit/QA.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> "The United Nations Human Rights Council: Background and Policy Issues." *Federation of American Scientists*, 25 Nov. 2020, [fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33608.pdf](http://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33608.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> "Welcome to the Human Rights Council." *OHCHR*, [www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/aboutcouncil.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/pages/aboutcouncil.aspx).



(UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and UN Women<sup>4</sup>.



### What has UNHRC done in the past?

The UNHRC regularly assesses member states' human rights records and investigates any reports of violations. The UNHRC enforces international human rights policies.

In a recent meeting, the Council adopted a resolution condemning the violations of human rights in Belarus where mass political protests have been violently crushed by the government<sup>5</sup>. The UNHRC has called for a comprehensive examination of alleged human rights abuses to identify and hold perpetrators accountable.

The Council has held a number of conventions to discuss urgent situations, such as those occurring in South Sudan, Syria, and atrocities committed by ISIS<sup>6</sup>. From 2011 to 2017, the Council created 17 reports and commissions covering a “diverse array of countries from Cote d’Ivoire to Sri Lanka”<sup>7</sup>. For instance, the UNHRC published a 400-page report on the **crimes against humanity** in North Korea. The UNHRC is continuing to promote human rights. Critics report that the UNHRC lacks efficiency and efficacy. The Council addresses these concerns at every meeting.



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<sup>4</sup> “Partnership.” *OHCHR*,

[www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/Pages/PartnershipsIndex.aspx#:~:text=OHCHR%20continues%20to%20implement%20technical,Organization%20\(UNESCO\)%2C%20the%20United](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/Pages/PartnershipsIndex.aspx#:~:text=OHCHR%20continues%20to%20implement%20technical,Organization%20(UNESCO)%2C%20the%20United).

<sup>5</sup> “Human Rights Council Concludes Forty-Sixth Regular Session after Adopting 30 Resolutions and One Decision.” *OHCHR*, [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=26947&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=26947&LangID=E).

<sup>6</sup> Piccone, Ted. “Assessing the United Nations Human Rights Council.” *Brookings*, Brookings, 25 May 2017, [www.brookings.edu/testimonies/assessing-the-united-nations-human-rights-council/](http://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/assessing-the-united-nations-human-rights-council/).

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*



# Topic A: The Crises in Myanmar



## The Military Coup:

### What is happening in Myanmar? Why?

Myanmar, located in Southeast Asia, became independent from Britain in 1948<sup>8</sup>. The country was ruled by the military from 1962 to 2011, when it adopted pro-democratic reforms to move to a more civilian rule<sup>9</sup>. During their years in power, Myanmar dealt with numerous protests, economic shifts, and attempted uprisings. Just

**Coup d'état** - also referred to as a *coup*; a sudden and violent overthrow of the government, typically by a political faction, the military, or a dictator.

**State of emergency** - a situation of national crisis in which a government halts normal constitutional procedures (i.e. can push forward policies that normally would not be permitted for the nation's benefit).

before the dissolution of the military junta, a new constitution was put into place that gave the military authority even during democratic periods<sup>10</sup>.

However, this *quasi-democratic* [having certain aspects of democracy] system recently ended when the military staged a take over (a **coup d'état**), implementing a year-long **state of emergency**.

This coup follows the reelection of Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, as President of Myanmar<sup>11</sup>. She has been in power since her first election in November 2011. In 2015, the NLD party won 77% of the seats in office, which allows them to make constitutional amendments.<sup>12</sup> The military denied these results, calling out election fraud despite the lack of evidence. The military, formally known as the **Tatmadaw**, launched its coup the day before the Parliament was scheduled to have its first session<sup>13</sup>. Since then, Commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing has been in control of the government.

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<sup>8</sup> Cuddy, Alice. "Myanmar Coup: What Is Happening and Why?" *BBC News*, BBC, 1 Apr. 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55902070](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55902070).

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>

<sup>11</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Ward, Alex. "Myanmar's Coup, Explained." *Vox*, Vox, 1 Feb. 2021, [www.vox.com/22260076/myanmar-coup-military-suu-kyi-explain](http://www.vox.com/22260076/myanmar-coup-military-suu-kyi-explain).

<sup>13</sup> *ibid.*

## Who is Aung San Suu Kyi?

Ms. Suu Kyi has become the image of peace and democracy in Myanmar since she co-founded the NLD party in 1988 with several opposition diplomats and politicians<sup>14</sup>. In July 1989, when the military was in control of Myanmar, they placed Suu Kyi on house arrest, only offering to free her if she agreed to leave the country<sup>15</sup>. She refused and continued her peaceful fight for democracy leading to a Nobel Peace Prize<sup>16</sup>. She was banned from running for president by the Tatmadaw, so she served as state counsellor, a position created for her<sup>17</sup>. Suu Kyi is respected by the international community for her advocacy for democracy at the cost of her own freedom.



## What are the protests like?

The military coup has led to many peaceful protests by the citizens of Myanmar, including students and teachers. These protests faced violent opposition from the Tatmadaw, after their initially restrained responses resulting in the deaths of two unarmed protestors, including a 13-year-old boy, on February 20, 2021<sup>18</sup>.



**Guerilla forces:** the use of hit-and-run tactics by small, mobile groups of irregular forces (such as armed civilians) operating in territory controlled by a hostile, regular force.

On Feb. 22, millions of citizens went on strike and took to the streets. This halted the country's banking system and the country's economy in general<sup>19</sup>. The protestors are starting to form **guerilla forces**. In the cities, people are building barricades to protect themselves from military attacks and building makeshift smoke bombs<sup>20</sup>. In the rural areas, they are learning warfare tactics and

<sup>14</sup> "Aung San Suu Kyi." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., [www.britannica.com/biography/Aung-San-Suu-Kyi](http://www.britannica.com/biography/Aung-San-Suu-Kyi).

<sup>15</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> "Aung San Suu Kyi: Myanmar Democracy Icon Who Fell from Grace." *BBC News*, BBC, 5 Mar. 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-11685977](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-11685977).

<sup>18</sup> Goldman, Russell. "Myanmar's Coup and Violence, Explained." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 1 Feb. 2021, [www.nytimes.com/article/myanmar-news-protests-coup.html](http://www.nytimes.com/article/myanmar-news-protests-coup.html).

<sup>19</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *ibid.*



planning attacks on military bases. They believe that the only way to take their country back is through a revolution, and even the creation of an alternative army.

## What happened on Armed Forces Day (March 27, 2021)?

On March 27, which was Armed Forces Day, the Myanmar military attacked pro-democracy protestors with fatal results. The Tatmadaw killed 114 protestors, including children, raising the total death count to 440<sup>21</sup>. The British government condemned the Myanmar military and said that the Tatmadaw “disgraced themselves” and the U.S. government claimed these events were horrifying<sup>22</sup>. The UNHRC has received several reports of killings in Myanmar and stated that “this violence is compounding the illegitimacy of the coup and the culpability of its leaders”<sup>23</sup>. One civilian has indicated that the military is “killing [civilians] like birds or chickens, even in [their] own homes”<sup>24</sup>. This day has been recognized internationally as one of great shame and loss.



## The Rohingya Genocide:

### Who are the Rohingya?

The Rohingya are, as described by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, “one of, if not the, discriminated people in the world”<sup>25</sup>. They are one of the many ethnic minorities (mainly Muslim) in Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist

**Stateless population** - an ethnic group that does not possess its own state and is not the majority population in any nation state

<sup>21</sup> “Myanmar Security Forces Kill over 100 Protesters in Horrifying Day of Bloodshed.” *CNBC*, CNBC, 27 Mar. 2021, [www.cnbc.com/2021/03/27/more-than-60-protesters-killed-in-myanmar-on-day-of-shame-for-armed-forces.html](http://www.cnbc.com/2021/03/27/more-than-60-protesters-killed-in-myanmar-on-day-of-shame-for-armed-forces.html).

<sup>22</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> Al Jazeera. “‘Day of Shame’: Dozens of Anti-Coup Protesters Killed in Myanmar.” *Military News* | *Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 27 Mar. 2021, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/27/myanmar-coup-leaders-put-on-show-of-force](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/27/myanmar-coup-leaders-put-on-show-of-force).

<sup>24</sup> “Myanmar Coup: Dozens Killed as Army Opens Fire on Protesters during Deadliest Day.” *BBC News*, BBC, 27 Mar. 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56546920](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-56546920).

<sup>25</sup> “Myanmar Rohingya: What You Need to Know about the Crisis.” *BBC News*, BBC, 23 Jan. 2020, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561).



country. They are one of the “largest **stateless populations** in the world”<sup>26</sup>. There are approximately 1.1 million Rohingya currently residing in Southeast Asia<sup>27</sup>.

While a vast majority of The Rohingya live in Myanmar, they are not citizens. After independence in 1948, Myanmar implemented the **Union Citizenship Act**, which listed the ethnic groups that would be granted citizenship<sup>28</sup>. The Rohingya were not included. However, under the Act, they were allowed to obtain citizenship if at least two generations of their family had lived in Myanmar<sup>29</sup>. In 1962, after the military coup, obtaining citizenship, and life in general for the Rohingya, became very difficult.



## The 1982 Myanmar Nationality Law

In 1982, a new federal citizenship law was passed, which made the Rohingya officially stateless<sup>30</sup>. To obtain the most basic level of citizenship in Myanmar, people needed to prove that their family had lived there before 1948 and fluency in one of the nation’s official languages<sup>31</sup>. The Rohingya were often denied paperwork in the past that would be necessary to meet these requirements, thus preventing their citizenship. According to article 15 of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, “everyone has a right to nationality”<sup>32</sup>. This law violates this standard as it denies the Rohingya nationality.

This law provides an excuse for the Rohingya to be persecuted as non-citizens and makes them “extremely vulnerable to human rights abuses by government and non-government actors”<sup>33</sup>. The international community has called out this policy as discrimination; the government of Myanmar sees this as infringing upon their **national sovereignty**<sup>34</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> “Rohingya.” *Human Rights Watch*, [www.hrw.org/tag/rohingya#](http://www.hrw.org/tag/rohingya#).

<sup>27</sup> Staff, Al Jazeera. “Myanmar: Who Are the Rohingya?” *Humanitarian Crises | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, [www.aljazeera.com/features/2018/4/18/who-are-the-rohingya](http://www.aljazeera.com/features/2018/4/18/who-are-the-rohingya).

<sup>28</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights](http://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights).

<sup>33</sup> “Myanmar’s 1982 Citizenship Law and Rohingya.” *Burma Campaign*, Dec. 2014, [www.burmacampaign.org.uk/media/Myanmar%E2%80%99s-1982-Citizenship-Law-and-Rohingya.pdf](http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/media/Myanmar%E2%80%99s-1982-Citizenship-Law-and-Rohingya.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> *ibid.*

**National sovereignty** - the independence of a state, that includes the right to regulating its internal affairs without foreign interference.



## Rohingya Genocide

(Trigger warning: discussion of rape and murder)

On August 25 2017, Rohingya militants living in the Rakhine State of Myanmar attacked police posts, killing 12 officers<sup>35</sup>. This attack followed years of persecution. After this attack, the Myanmar military began burning villages and attacking civilians, resulting in a death toll of at least 1,000 civilians<sup>36</sup>. After international criticism, the military claimed that the Rohingya were setting fire to their own homes. There is evidence that these atrocities were committed by the military<sup>37</sup>. The UN human rights chief, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, has identified these actions as “a textbook example of **ethnic cleansing**”<sup>38</sup>. Since then, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have migrated to Bangladesh to escape the armed violence and conflict. In September 2017, just one month after this attack, the UN Secretary General called this “the world’s fastest-developing refugee emergency and a humanitarian and human rights nightmare”<sup>39</sup>.

**Ethnic cleansing** - the mass expulsion or killing of members of an unwanted ethnic or religious group in a society.

### How are the living conditions of Rohingya migrants?

Migrants are still suffering from injuries due to the original government attacks and several have drowned whilst trying to cross the Naf River into Bangladesh<sup>40</sup>. Almost a million Rohingya now live in refugee camps in Bangladesh and many camps are now full<sup>41</sup>.



<sup>35</sup> “Myanmar: What Sparked Latest Violence in Rakhine?” *BBC News*, BBC, 19 Sept. 2017, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41082689#:~:text=A%20fresh%20outbreak%20of%20violence,led%20to%20a%20security%20crackdown](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41082689#:~:text=A%20fresh%20outbreak%20of%20violence,led%20to%20a%20security%20crackdown).

<sup>36</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> Reid, Kathryn. “Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help.” *World Vision*, 25 Mar. 2021, [www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-facts](http://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-facts).

<sup>40</sup> “Myanmar: What Sparked Latest Violence in Rakhine?” *BBC News*, BBC, 19 Sept. 2017, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41082689#:~:text=A%20fresh%20outbreak%20of%20violence,led%20to%20a%20security%20crackdown](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41082689#:~:text=A%20fresh%20outbreak%20of%20violence,led%20to%20a%20security%20crackdown).

<sup>41</sup> *ibid.*

“With 40,000 people per square kilometer, the camps are one of the most crowded places on Earth”<sup>42</sup>. Rohingya children are vulnerable to malnutrition, disease, physical and psychological abuse/neglect, and much more. There are over 540,000 children refugees susceptible to “psychosocial distress, neglect, abuse, separation from caregivers, sexual violence, child marriage, child labor, and trafficking”<sup>43</sup>. According to UNICEF, “7 % of children in the camps are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, a condition from which they will die unless they get proper care”, a rate 3 times higher than those of other recent humanitarian crises<sup>44</sup>.

### What is Suu Kyi and the NLD’s response?

Despite representing democracy and peace in Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi has come under fire for her unwillingness to address the Rohingya crisis. When the tensions with the Rohingya were still rising, Suu Kyi claimed that it was being exaggerated by a “huge iceberg of



misinformation”<sup>45</sup>. Many of her fellow Nobel Peace Prize winners, Malala Yousafzai, the Dalai Lama, and Desmond Tutu, have urged Suu Kyi to protect the Rohingya<sup>46</sup>. While she claimed that she sympathized with “all the people caught up in the conflict” and condemned the human rights abuses; her speech still garnered criticism as she was not taking any concrete actions to protect the

Rohingya<sup>47</sup>. In December 2019, Suu Kyi denied all allegations of genocide in Myanmar<sup>48</sup>.

<sup>42</sup> Reid, Kathryn. “Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help.” *World Vision*, 25 Mar. 2021, [www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-facts](http://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-facts).

<sup>43</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>44</sup> Beech, Hannah. “Rohingya Children Facing ‘Massive Mental Health Crisis.’” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 31 Dec. 2017, [www.nytimes.com/2017/12/31/world/asia/rohingya-children-myanmar.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/31/world/asia/rohingya-children-myanmar.html).

<sup>45</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> “Myanmar: What Sparked Latest Violence in Rakhine?” *BBC News*, BBC, 19 Sept. 2017, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41082689#:~:text=A%20fresh%20outbreak%20of%20violence,led%20to%20a%20security%20crackdown](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41082689#:~:text=A%20fresh%20outbreak%20of%20violence,led%20to%20a%20security%20crackdown).

<sup>47</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>48</sup> “Myanmar Rohingya: What You Need to Know about the Crisis.” *BBC News*, BBC, 23 Jan. 2020, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561).



## What have the UNHRC and other UN agencies done?

In September 2018, the UNHRC began an “independent investigative mechanism to collect, preserve, and analyze evidence of atrocity crimes in Burma.”<sup>49</sup> The UN’s **International Court of Justice** (ICJ) has held trials in order to investigate the human rights abuses in Myanmar. Myanmar was a party to the Genocide Convention and therefore is obligated to prevent genocide; the ICJ is working to investigate whether the country has lived up to this obligation<sup>50</sup>. The ICJ has ordered Myanmar to “take measures to protect members of its Rohingya community from genocide”<sup>51</sup>. During an ICJ court hearing, Suu Kyi took the stand and denied all accusations of genocide and human rights abuses in Myanmar<sup>52</sup>. The **International Criminal Court** (ICC) has called for an investigation into the Myanmar treatment of the Rohingya<sup>53</sup>.

The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) has “airlifted more than 1,500 metric tons of emergency life-saving aid to Bangladesh – including blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, family tents, plastic rolls, kitchen sets, jerry cans and buckets”<sup>54</sup>. The UNHCR is creating sites for refugees to find safe shelter. In order to help the refugees, the **World Food Programme** has provided refugees with monthly food rations that include rice, lentils, and oil<sup>55</sup>.

## Relevant NGOs

**Non-governmental organizations** (NGOs) do not work under any government, or the UN, but are often helpful



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<sup>49</sup> “The Plight of the Rohingya.” *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, [www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/burma/case-study/introduction/the-plight-of-the-rohingya](http://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/burma/case-study/introduction/the-plight-of-the-rohingya).

<sup>50</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> “Myanmar Rohingya: What You Need to Know about the Crisis.” *BBC News*, BBC, 23 Jan. 2020, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561).

<sup>52</sup> “Aung San Suu Kyi: Myanmar Democracy Icon Who Fell from Grace.” *BBC News*, BBC, 5 Mar. 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-11685977](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-11685977).

<sup>53</sup> “Myanmar Rohingya: What You Need to Know about the Crisis.” *BBC News*, BBC, 23 Jan. 2020, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561).

<sup>54</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Rohingya Emergency.” *UNHCR*, [www.unhcr.org/en-us/rohingya-emergency.html](http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/rohingya-emergency.html).

<sup>55</sup> Reid, Kathryn. “Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help.” *World Vision*, 25 Mar. 2021, [www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-facts](http://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-facts).



in tackling global crises. As a part of the UNHRC, we work with NGOs to combat the Rohingya crisis.

- Save the Children
- World Vision International
- Amnesty International
- International Rescue Committee
- CARE International
- Oxfam
- Doctors Without Borders

### **Questions to Consider**

- How can the international community help combat these issues without infringing upon national sovereignty? Are there exceptions/limits to national sovereignty and has Myanmar met these criteria?
- How can freedom of speech and protest be protected in Myanmar?
- How can we improve conditions for the refugees in Bangladesh and find shelter for incoming migrants?
- What are some ways the international community can urge the military to halt their coup? (Possible option: trade sanctions and embargoes)
- Has your particular country dealt with a refugee crisis in the past, and what actions did the peoples or governments take?

## Topic B: Human Trafficking



## The Haunting Reality of Human Trafficking

As of 2017, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO), approximately 24.9 million people are trafficked. Of this number, “50% of detected victims in 2018 were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 38% were exploited for forced labour, 6% were subjected to forced criminal activity, while 1% were coerced into begging and smaller numbers into forced marriages, organ removal, and other purposes.”<sup>56</sup>. According to a 2014 ILO report, human traffickers make about \$150 billion a year, with \$99 billion from the commercial sexual exploitation sector<sup>57</sup>. Human traffickers use “violence, fraudulent employment agencies, and fake promises of education and job

**Human trafficking:**  
recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.  
- UNODC



opportunities” to coerce their victims, often people whom they have targeted because they seem more vulnerable and desperate<sup>58</sup>. The issue is only getting worse; human trafficking cases hit a 13-year high, with reported cases jumping from less than 20,000 in 2003 to 25,000 in 2017<sup>59</sup>.

**Human trafficking is a global issue.**  
**The breakdown of roles of countries is:**

### ➤ Origin Countries

- These countries provide victims to be trafficked. Generally, origin countries tend to be less developed, so abusers can “take advantage of individuals’ poverty and lack of education, as well as the country’s lack of social, political, and ultimately

<sup>56</sup> “Human Trafficking FAQs.” *United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime*, [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html).

<sup>57</sup> “Human Trafficking by the Numbers.” *Human Rights First*, [www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers](http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers).

<sup>58</sup> “Human Trafficking FAQs.” *United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime*, [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html).

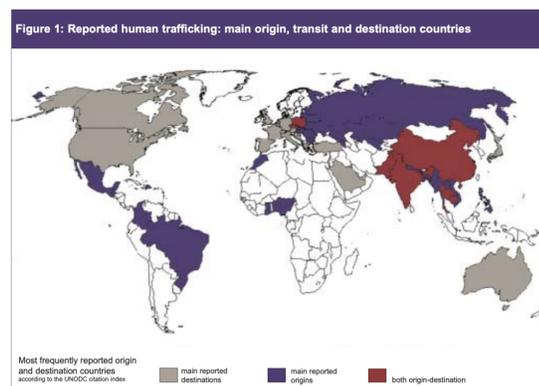
<sup>59</sup> “Human Trafficking Cases Hit a 13-Year Record High, New UN Report Shows || UN News.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1031552](http://news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1031552).

legal consequences.”<sup>60</sup>. People from these countries can easily succumb to the false hope of better opportunities and money. The biggest region of origin countries lies in Asia<sup>61</sup>.

- Some of the largest origin countries of human trafficking are Albania, Belarus, Nigeria, Russian Federation, and others<sup>62</sup>. In most cases, victims’ desire to move out of extreme poverty is exploited, making them more vulnerable to traffickers. Other risk factors include low education rates, lack of rights, among more<sup>63</sup>, thus there is a significant link between poverty and human trafficking cases.
- Globally, one in three (appx. 33%) of reported victims of human trafficking is a child; in low-income countries, however, this rate rises to **one-half** (50%) of victims<sup>64</sup>. These children are primarily trafficked for the intention of forced labor.

### ➤ Transit Countries

- Transit countries provide passage for traffickers to take their victims to the destination countries<sup>65</sup>. Most human trafficking cases involve multiple countries and continents; these regions make for more convenient passage way. An example of a transit region is Hawaii, which identifies



<sup>60</sup> “How Do Countries Contribute to Human Trafficking?” *Dressember*, Dressember, 29 Apr. 2021, [www.dressember.org/blog/how-do-countries-contribute-to-human-trafficking](http://www.dressember.org/blog/how-do-countries-contribute-to-human-trafficking).

<sup>61</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> Project, Borgen. “Poverty and It’s Contribution to Human Trafficking- Borgen.” *The Borgen Project*, Borgen Project [https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The\\_Borgen\\_Project\\_Logo\\_small.Jpg](https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The_Borgen_Project_Logo_small.Jpg), 3 July 2020, [borgenproject.org/poverty-contribution-human-trafficking/#:~:text=Those%20suffering%20from%20poverty%20are,as%20a%20means%20of%20exploitation.&text=There%20are%20two%20types%20of,dollars%20can%20end%20global%20pove](http://borgenproject.org/poverty-contribution-human-trafficking/#:~:text=Those%20suffering%20from%20poverty%20are,as%20a%20means%20of%20exploitation.&text=There%20are%20two%20types%20of,dollars%20can%20end%20global%20pove) rty.

<sup>63</sup> “Sex Trafficking: Human Trafficking for Sex.” *End Slavery Now*, [www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/sex-trafficking](http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/sex-trafficking).

<sup>64</sup> “GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2020.” *UNODC*, [www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP\\_2020\\_15jan\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_15jan_web.pdf).

<sup>65</sup> *ibid.*



human trafficking as their biggest illegal industry after drug-trading<sup>66</sup>.

### ➤ Destination Countries

- Destination countries are where the human trafficking victims are sold and held captive. These countries, which include Canada and the USA, are more developed than the origin countries. The largest region of destination for human trafficking is Europe<sup>67</sup>. These victims are usually forced into manual labor and sexual exploitation.

## Prosecution of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking rings are underground and therefore harder to catch. Additionally, traffickers instill fear and hopelessness in victims to discourage them from speaking up<sup>68</sup>. Convictions depend on victim identification and statements, but when interviewed, victims were reluctant to provide law enforcement with information about their traffickers and were often unaware that their experiences fell under human trafficking<sup>69</sup>. The number of human trafficking convictions is increasing, but not equal to the rising number of cases<sup>70</sup>. Approximately 2 out of 5 reported countries have not recorded any convictions at all, not having the means to identify and prosecute human trafficking cases<sup>71</sup>.

The three biggest challenges that law enforcement faces with such cases are<sup>72</sup>:

1. Lack of proper training
2. Human trafficking victim identification is “pushed to later stages of criminal justice proceedings”
3. Human trafficking cases are put under various other criminal categories, such as prostitution, making it harder to identify.

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<sup>66</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> “Why Can't Victims of Trafficking Just Walk Away?” *STOP THE TRAFFIK.* *STOP THE TRAFFIK*, 21 Feb. 2020, [www.stopthetraffik.org/cant-victims-trafficking-just-walk-away/](http://www.stopthetraffik.org/cant-victims-trafficking-just-walk-away/).

<sup>69</sup> “Gaps in Reporting Human Trafficking Incidents Result in Significant Undercounting.” *National Institute of Justice*, [nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/gaps-reporting-human-trafficking-incidents-result-significant-undercounting#note2](http://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/gaps-reporting-human-trafficking-incidents-result-significant-undercounting#note2).

<sup>70</sup> “GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2020.” *UNODC*, [www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP\\_2020\\_15jan\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_15jan_web.pdf).

<sup>71</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>72</sup> “Gaps in Reporting Human Trafficking Incidents Result in Significant Undercounting.” *National Institute of Justice*, [nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/gaps-reporting-human-trafficking-incidents-result-significant-undercounting#note2](http://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/gaps-reporting-human-trafficking-incidents-result-significant-undercounting#note2).



## Sexual Exploitation of Persons

**Sexual exploitation** is one of the main reasons for human trafficking. Internationally, there are approximately 4.5 million victims of sex trafficking<sup>73</sup>. Traffickers establish a power dynamic with their victims, through intimidation, threats and violence that manipulates them into sex work<sup>74</sup>. In 2016, the ILO estimated that 99% of victims of sex trafficking are women and girls<sup>75</sup>.

**Sex Trafficking:** the sexual abuse or exploitation of people for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person.

Sexual exploitation is so common that it is almost normalized. In China, there has been a declining population of women. In response, women have been trafficked as brides from countries like Vietnam<sup>76</sup>. Approximately two-thirds of those trafficked in Vietnam are sold to China as brides for Chinese men<sup>77</sup>.

## Foster Care and Sex Trafficking

**Grooming:** when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.

People in foster care are most likely to be trafficked, especially for sexual exploitation. Traffickers take advantage of children's vulnerability within the system. Foster children often lack stability and a sense of family. Traffickers take feign love for their victims, luring them into forgetting that they are being used for financial gain<sup>78</sup>. They often use a technique called **grooming** to lure their

<sup>73</sup> "Sex Trafficking: Human Trafficking for Sex." *End Slavery Now*, [www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/sex-trafficking](http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/sex-trafficking).

<sup>74</sup> "Sex Trafficking and Exploitation." *Sex Trafficking and Exploitation | Safe Voices*, [www.safevoices.org/what-domestic-violence/sex-trafficking-and-exploitation#:~:text=What%20is%20Human%20Trafficking%3F&text=It%20also%20includes%20when%20any,commercial%20sex%20work%20of%20another](http://www.safevoices.org/what-domestic-violence/sex-trafficking-and-exploitation#:~:text=What%20is%20Human%20Trafficking%3F&text=It%20also%20includes%20when%20any,commercial%20sex%20work%20of%20another).

<sup>75</sup> Kelly, Cara. "13 Sex Trafficking Statistics That Explain the Enormity of the Global Sex Trade." *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 30 July 2019,

[www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2019/07/29/12-trafficking-statistics-enormity-global-sex-trade/1755192001/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2019/07/29/12-trafficking-statistics-enormity-global-sex-trade/1755192001/).

<sup>76</sup> "Women for Sale." *NRC*, [www.nrc.no/perspectives/2016/women-for-sale/](http://www.nrc.no/perspectives/2016/women-for-sale/).

<sup>77</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>78</sup> *ibid.*



victims<sup>79</sup>, making children trust them, only to isolate them from those around any outside support.

Sex traffickers lure foster children in group homes by sending one of their “loyal girls” to live in a homes to recruit more potential victims<sup>80</sup>. Potential recruits will be given false promises that their pimp will take care of them and provide them with the love and stability they deserve.

## Forced Labor of Persons

The ILO estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of trafficking for forced labor<sup>81</sup> which makes up 18% of all cases. This rate may be higher as forced labor cases are less detected<sup>82</sup>. The largest industries that involve labor trafficking are fishing, textile, construction, mineral and agricultural<sup>83</sup>. 90% of victims of forced labor trafficking are exploited by private businesses<sup>84</sup>. Modern day slavery exists in many countries including North Korea, Iran, Burundi, and Eritrea<sup>85</sup>.

**Forced labor:** all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.

## What has the UNHRC and other UN bodies done?

In 2000, the **UN Human Rights Council** established the “*Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish the Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*”, which established an international definition for human trafficking. The Council has created a framework for pilots

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<sup>79</sup> Children, Voices For. “Foster Care and Human Trafficking.” *Voices for Children | A Child Heard. A Life Changed.*, 31 Jan. 2020, [www.speakupnow.org/foster-care-and-human-trafficking/](http://www.speakupnow.org/foster-care-and-human-trafficking/).

<sup>80</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>81</sup> “Forced Labor: Modern Day Slavery.” *End Slavery Now*, [www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/forced-labor](http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/forced-labor).

<sup>82</sup> “GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2020.” *UNODC*, [www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP\\_2020\\_15jan\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_15jan_web.pdf).

<sup>83</sup> “Forced Labor: Modern Day Slavery.” *End Slavery Now*, [www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/forced-labor](http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/forced-labor).

<sup>84</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>85</sup> Karuga, James. “Slavery Today: Countries With the Highest Prevalence of Modern Slaves.” *WorldAtlas*, WorldAtlas, 10 June 2019, [www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-most-modern-slaves-today.html](http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-most-modern-slaves-today.html).



and cabin crew to identify signs of human trafficking<sup>86</sup>. The Council has capacity development projects, which include training for specific fields like law enforcement in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Colombia, and other participating countries<sup>87</sup>.

The **International Labor Organization** (ILO) has implemented the “*Fair Recruitment Initiative*”, focused on labor standards being transparent and humane. One of their goals is to protect the rights of workers and identify and combat any cases of forced labor and human trafficking<sup>88</sup>.



Other UN agencies that have worked to combat human trafficking are (but are not limited to): UN Women, UNICEF, IOM, and UNODC.

## The “Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”

This plan was adopted by the UN’s General Assembly in 2010 and targets human trafficking<sup>89</sup>. It establishes a voluntary trust fund for victims of human trafficking<sup>90</sup>. This fund provides governments with money to help protect the lives of victims. This plan emphasizes obtaining data and census records on human trafficking so the international community can combat this issue more effectively.

## Relevant NGOs

The UNHRC works with NGOs to eradicate human trafficking.

- Amnesty International
- FAIR Girls
- Human Rights Watch
- Anti-Slavery International



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<sup>86</sup> “What We Do to End Human Trafficking.” *OHCHR*, [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Trafficking/TiP/Pages/WhatWeDo.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Trafficking/TiP/Pages/WhatWeDo.aspx).

<sup>87</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>88</sup> *Fair Recruitment*, [www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/lang-en/index.htm).

<sup>89</sup> “United Nations Launches Global Plan of Action against Human Trafficking.” *United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime*,

[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/September/un-launches-global-plan-of-action-against-human-trafficking.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2010/September/un-launches-global-plan-of-action-against-human-trafficking.html)

<sup>90</sup> *ibid.*



## **Questions to Consider:**

- Is there a viable link between poverty and human trafficking? How can we solve these issues hand in hand?
- How can we establish frameworks to aide the justice system in combating and prosecuting human trafficking?
- How can the international community help combat state-imposed forced labor without infringing upon national sovereignty? Are there exceptions/limits to national sovereignty and has this issue met these criteria?
- How can we protect women and children from being more vulnerable to trafficking? What about other groups, such as foster children and LGBTQ+?
- How can we support and protect victims post-rescue?
- Can we employ any actions in the past that the UNHRC has taken that has been proven to be successful?



## *Position Descriptions*

### **Myanmar**

Myanmar is a country in Southeast Asia that is bordered by Thailand, India, Bangladesh, and several other countries. Myanmar is home to more than 100 ethnic groups, including the Rohingya muslims. The country is currently facing many social and political issues- which has resulted in a series of human rights violations. There are presently political protests against the military coup that recently took over the country again, many of which have become fatal. Additionally, the Rohingya are being persecuted against and driven out of their homes, creating one of the largest mass migrations in the present day.



### **Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is a country in Asia that borders Myanmar. Because of its geographical location, the country has received a mass influx of refugees escaping Myanmar. As of November 2020, the Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh is reaching 900,000 individuals. This mass migration has destabilized the country's economy and ecology, and thus Bangladesh has relocated many refugees to a remote island, where refugees' rights are being restricted. In addition, Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of human trafficking. The Rohingya women and children are especially vulnerable to being sold for sexual exploitation and forced labor.



### **China**

China lies in North Asia and is the biggest country in the world by population. China and Myanmar have always been neighbors with close relations, even during Myanmar's previous military coup when Western nations restricted foreign contact with Myanmar. However, as anti-Chinese sentiment presence grows in Myanmar and the new military coup nears the border, China-Myanmar relations have been tense. China is a distinct transit and destination country for human trafficking, especially for forced labor as China is the one of the globe's biggest manufacturerers. Additionally, China is trafficking women from neighboring countries, such as Vietnam, as brides to Chinese men.





## United States

The United States has placed sanctions on Myanmar following the military coup. Tensions between the U.S. and Myanmar had risen after the 1988 coup and the violent suppression of pro-democracy movements in Myanmar continues to worsen. The U.S. has also taken several strides towards combating human trafficking, such as identifying and closing websites that allow sex trafficking to occur. However, human trafficking still exists in the U.S., predominantly in California, Texas, and Georgia.



## India

India is a country in South Asia that houses the second largest population in the world. When the military first took control of Myanmar and pro-democracy movements were suppressed, India-Myanmar relations were strained. India was on the side of the pro-democracy opposition to the coup. However, the relationship between the two nations have progressed since 1993, as a means of increasing Indian influence in Southeast Asia. Human trafficking is increasingly prevalent in India through sexual exploitation and forced labor, especially forced marriages. There are estimates that approx. 20 to 65 million Indians are trafficked, even though it is illegal in the country.



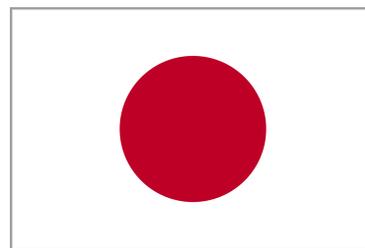
## United Kingdom

The UK is a country in Europe, and withdrew from the European Union in 2020. The UK placed sanctions on Myanmar following the coup and abuse against the pro-democracy protestors. The country also condemned the Rohingya genocide and has worked with the UN to investigate crimes against humanity in Myanmar. The UK is a predominant destination country for human trafficking, taking in people who are trafficked. Though UK authorities have worked to implement more anti-trafficking policies and identify victims and abusers, large-scale police investigations have generally failed in finding cases. Thus, the estimates for human trafficking in the UK are definitely understated.



## Japan

Japan is an island country in East Asia. Japan has historically been more friendly towards Myanmar, even during Myanmar's first military coup when Western countries placed sanctions on the nation. Though Japan has condemned the current military coup in Myanmar, their approach is much more careful because they don't want to drive Myanmar closer to China. Japan is a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. Japan is one of the principal destination countries. Women and children in Japan are trapped into fake marriages and sexual exploitation. Japanese migrant workers are susceptible to forced labor.



## Australia

Australia has cut military ties with Myanmar following the coup and the violent suppression of pro-democracy movements. Australia has publicly condemned Myanmar for their lethal force against civilians. Australia has also worked towards improving conditions of the Rohingya women and children in Bangladeshi refugee camps. Australia has been named by the UNODC as one of the larger destination countries for human trafficking. The country has, however, ratified the adoption of the UN's protocol to prevent trafficking of persons.



## Canada

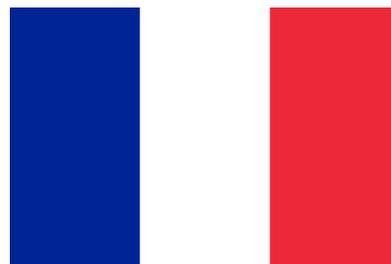
Canada has historically maintained civil relations with Myanmar. Tensions arose with the military rule in Myanmar, but overall, Canada has worked to offer humanitarian aid and has eased some economic sanctions placed on Myanmar. Canada is also working to offer humanitarian aid to the Rohingya in Myanmar and Bangladesh. Canada is a key destination country for human trafficking. The country's government has been condemned for its lack of effective systemic approaches to combat trafficking. However, Canada is still working to implement ways to mitigate this issue in the country.





## France

France is a country in Western Europe. The French government has condemned Myanmar for its violent treatment towards democratic protestors. France's foreign minister also has called for the release of government officials arrested following the military coup. France has also been providing immense amounts of humanitarian and monetary aid to the Rohingya. A majority of human trafficking in France is for commercial sex, with women and children being sold into this illegal industry. France has worked to eliminate trafficking through the following of international guidelines and the implementation of policies.



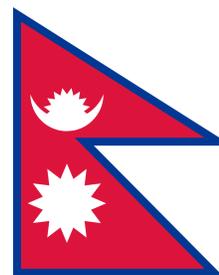
## Thailand

Thailand is a country in Southeast Asia that borders Myanmar. Because of this location, many people have fled Myanmar and sought refuge in Thailand. Though Thailand has voiced its discontent with the Myanmar crises, they haven't hardened their stance because they don't want to threaten the countries' close military ties and take in an influx of migrants. Thailand is a big source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. As of 2018, 1 in 113 people in Thailand were victims of human trafficking, especially forced labor and modern day slavery. There is still a lot of progress that needs to be made.



## Nepal

Nepal is a country in South Asia that has historically maintained friendly relations with Myanmar. The Nepali government has come under fire for its failure to effectively condemn the suppression of democratic movements in Myanmar. The countries have established and preserved diplomatic relations. Nepal is primarily a source country for human trafficking, which is a growing problem in the country. Human trafficking poses as a transnational and internal issue.



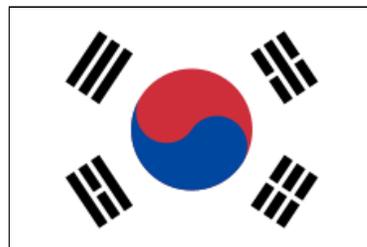
## **Vietnam**

Vietnam is a country in Southeast Asia that is neighbors with Myanmar. Vietnam is one of the bigger parties in calling out Myanmar for their abuses against human rights. Vietnam has called for a process in Myanmar to engage in a democracy rather than their current coup. They have also worked towards helping the Rohingya refugees have a voluntary and safe passage and return. Human trafficking is a big crisis in Vietnam, with the industry generation tens of billions of dollars. Over 90% of its victims are women, children, and ethnic minorities.



## **South Korea**

South Korea is an East Asian country that has recently developed tense relations with Myanmar following the military coup. South Korea has directly condemned the actions in Myanmar for its abuses against human rights and suppression of pro-democratic movements. They have also suspended defence exchanges and banned arms exports to Myanmar. South Korea has complied with guidelines and has implemented effective policies to combat human trafficking. However, while the country was very effective in focusing on sex trafficking, they have lacked in their capacity to combat forced labor.



## **The Philippines**

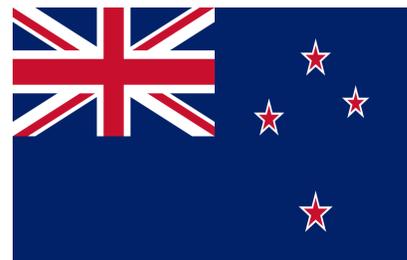
The Philippines has taken a stand in support against the military junta in Myanmar, as most of their citizens find Aung San Suu Kyi to be a hero. However, the Philippines are hesitant to interfere in any way in fear of damaging relations between the two countries, and their biggest concern is the safety of Filipino residents in Myanmar. The government of the Philippines has tried to take several measures to better protect those who have been recovered and those who are at risk, but the lack of a database tracking trafficking has caused multiple issues and has set progress back.





## **New Zealand**

New Zealand has taken action against Myanmar in light of the recent coup, and put on sanctions almost immediately. In addition, New Zealand has declared a travel ban on Myanmar's military leaders and have stated that they do not recognize the military junta as the new government. They refuse to reestablish relations until a democratically-elected government returns to power and currently imprisoned leaders are released. New Zealand is a destination country for human trafficking, however young New Zealanders, specifically those from minorities, are trafficked, typically into prostitution. However, there is low awareness of trafficking among New Zealand's citizens.



## **Sweden**

Sweden has condemned the military takeover, calling the new government "illegitimate." Sweden wants to ensure that the military junta is accepting the humanitarian aid the citizens need, calling upon the military to let go of control and to restore democracy in the country. Sweden is willing to support efforts to stop the military junta and to give freedoms back to Burmese citizens. Sweden is a destination country for human trafficking, and while they have strengthened anti-trafficking laws, child and male victims of trafficking are still not receiving the support they need.



## **Germany**

Germany has spoken on the issues present in Myanmar, with delegates even warning of a possible civil war. Germany has placed sanctions, travel bans, and asset freezes upon Myanmar in an effort to make the military junta loosen up on their strict policies. Germany is a destination for human trafficking, with victims mostly coming from Eastern and Southeastern European nations. Germany, while making good efforts, is simply not doing enough to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking. Suggestions frequently include the establishment of a committee to tackle trafficking.





## **Cambodia**

Cambodia is a country in Southeast Asia who, alongside Myanmar, is part of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). They have deemed that the coup in Myanmar is “internal affairs” and, while calling for ceasefires and an end to violence between civilians and the military junta, Cambodia wishes not to comment or take action against Myanmar, as they worry they would be hypocritical. In recent years, Cambodia, an origin country for human trafficking, has established a five year plan to tackle human trafficking, however human trafficking still continues to occur in plain sight, with many failures for formal investigations of businesses with credible suspicions.



## **Mexico**

Mexico calls upon the military junta to restore democracy in Myanmar. Mexico is incredibly concerned about the coup and is willing to support peaceful solutions that promote democracy and freedom for the Burmese citizens, who have found themselves heavily censored due to the military junta’s takeover. Despite the progress Mexico has made to combat human trafficking, which is still an issue within the country, Mexico has not provided sufficient services for victims of human trafficking.



## **Bulgaria**

Bulgaria does not have many relations with Myanmar, however Bulgaria has also had tense relations with their government in the not-so-recent past. Bulgaria is willing to work with its fellow European Union member states to reach a ceasefire in Myanmar. Bulgaria has upped their protection services against trafficking, especially for their Roma population, however there is still much for them to do. There have been suggestions for them to introduce a method to aid victims of human trafficking financially.





## **Poland**

Poland has turned their attention towards Myanmar after one of their journalists was imprisoned and detained for two weeks by the military junta. Poland is interested in working with Germany in order to aid journalists and re-establish democracy and freedom of speech in Myanmar. However, Poland has a pressing issue with human trafficking, and has lacked proper focus on forced labor. In addition, there is not much support for victims.



## **Russia**

Russia has seemed to be putting more support behind the military junta instead of the Burmese citizens, which differs from many other nations. Russia claims that sanctions would lead to a war with Myanmar. Russia refuses to condemn the coup or the actions of the military junta, and now that the military is in power,

Russia's relationship with Myanmar has strengthened. Russia, along with China, provides weaponry and arms to Myanmar. Russia is making very few efforts to stop human trafficking. Suggestions have been made to Russia to ensure the safety of those who have been recovered from trafficking and their families, in addition to creating a national anti-trafficking plan.

