

Calgary Interfaith Council
Statement on the Plight of the Rohingya Muslim Minority
in Myanmar
November 19, 2017

The Calgary Interfaith Council is comprised of clergy and lay leaders who represent Calgary's major faith communities in an effort to promote interfaith religious understanding, and harmony. It is our shared belief that intolerance and prejudice can only be eradicated through dialogue, education, and the building of bridges of respect between faith communities.

The Calgary Interfaith Council is deeply concerned about the plight of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar. They have been subjected to persecution and violence by the Myanmar government whose recent actions constitute a campaign of ethnic cleansing aimed at forcing the Rohingya minority to flee the country. Tragically, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya men, women and children have forcibly left their homes and country and now face a humanitarian crisis in refugee camps.

The Calgary Interfaith Council feels compelled to speak out against this abuse of human rights. Nobel Prize winner, Elie Wiesel, wrote, "*Silence is the oppressor, never the oppressed.*" Therefore, the Calgary Interfaith Council calls upon the government of Myanmar to cease all acts of violence against the Rohingya Muslim minority and to allow all people in Myanmar, including the Rohingya, to exercise their human rights and participate in a pluralistic society. For this vision to be realized, the government of Myanmar must take the courageous step of recognizing the existence of the Rohingya, allow for their peaceful return to Myanmar and restore their rights as citizens.

We urge the government of Canada to stand up for the rights of the Rohingya and to use all diplomatic and political means to pressure the Myanmar government so that its ethnic minorities may live in dignity and security.

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