

## Rohingya refugee crisis FAQs

### Who are the Rohingya people?

- Rohingya people are a stateless ethnic group who are mostly Muslim and have lived in Rakhine state in Myanmar for centuries.
- Before August 2017 there were approximately 1.1 million Rohingya people living in Myanmar – but because of the escalation in violence and the forced mass-migration, it is now unknown how many Rohingya people are still in Myanmar.
- The Rohingya people are often referred to as the most persecuted minority in the world. They are not recognised as citizens of Myanmar and have no formal right to services such as education or healthcare and their movement is restricted.
- They have been subject to persecution and violence for decades.

### Where is Myanmar?

- Myanmar is in South East Asia and is one of the world's poorest countries
- It has a population of 53 million who are mostly Buddhist
- Myanmar was ruled by an oppressive military for almost 50 years, which has repeatedly targeted ethnic groups who aren't Buddhist
- It now has a democratically elected government, but the military are still very influential



### What happened in 2017?

- The Myanmar military used attacks by *small groups of* Rohingya people on police checkpoints to justify attacks against the entire Rohingya population, including children
- Violence significantly increased from August 2017, and in September 2017 6,700 Rohingya people were killed by the military, and entire villages were destroyed and burned
- 700,000 Rohingya people were forced to leave their homes to escape the violence – two-thirds of these are children
- The nearest safe place for most Rohingya refugees to go was Bangladesh, which is one of the poorest countries in the world and struggled to cope with so many refugees arriving so quickly

### What can the UK do about it?

- The UK government is very powerful and influential within the United Nations, and can bring global attention to situations where groups are committing war crimes against children
- They can refer the Myanmar military to the International Criminal Court and get justice for the Rohingya people, but so far they have not done this, meaning the military continues to go unpunished



### What can we do to change this?

- We can tell Dominic Raab, the Foreign Secretary, that we care about what happens to Rohingya children and their families – and want the UK to stand up for them
- We can make sure Rohingya people are not forgotten, and we can speak out against the violence and persecution they have experienced