



# The Rohingya Crisis: What can and should Canada do?

**Honourable Bob Rae**

Senior Partner, Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP and Former Premier of  
Ontario and Interim Liberal Party Leader

September 13, 2019

9:00am – 4:00pm\*

\*Note special end time (rather than 4:30pm). Lunch will take place from 12:00pm to 1:00pm\*

## Summary

On September 13th, spend the day with Honourable Bob Rae, Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar. During his travels to Myanmar, Mr. Rae conducted extensive research to assess the extent of the crisis and to make recommendations on how Canada could assist the Rohingya people and how Canada can work with the international community to bring to justice those responsible for committing crimes against humanity in the treatment and displacement of the Rohingya. Join Mr. Rae, as he takes participants through this experience as Special Envoy. He will talk about who was involved in the mission and some of the challenges they faced in their pursuit of answers. Mr. Rae will also discuss the recommendations that were made and some of the limitations of those recommendations. Finally, looking back after one year since the publication of his report, Mr. Rae will explore to what degree the situation has changed and whether Canada has done enough to help.

## Outline

### **Session 1 - 9:00am - 10:45am**

- Introductions and overview of the day
- What is the Rohingya Crisis? Who are the Rohingya people?

### **Break - 10:45am - 11:00am**

### **Session 2 - 11:00am - 12:00pm**

- Assessing the situation – my experience as Special Envoy to Myanmar
  - o Who and what was involved?
  - o Challenges

### **Lunch - 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

### **Session 3 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

- What can Canada do? 'Tell them we're human' – Special Report
  - o Recommendations
  - o Limitations
- One year later, what has Canada done? How has the situation changed?

### **Break - 3:00pm - 3:15pm**

### **Session 4 - 3:15pm - 4:00pm**

- Has Canada done enough? Can we do more?
- Lessons learned





## **Required Readings\***

- Government of Canada. 2018. "Canada's Strategy to Respond to the Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh" [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_development-enjeux\\_developpement/response\\_conflict-reponse\\_conflits/crisis-crisis/strat-rohingya.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/response_conflict-reponse_conflits/crisis-crisis/strat-rohingya.aspx?lang=eng)
- Government of Canada. 2018. "‘Tell them we’re human’ What Canada and the world can do about the Rohingya crisis". *Report of the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy, the Honourable Bob Rae*. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/assets/pdfs/rohingya\\_crisis\\_eng.pdf](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/assets/pdfs/rohingya_crisis_eng.pdf)
- UNHCR. 2013. "Note on the mandate of The High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office". *The UN Refugee Agency*. <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/basic/526a22cb6/mandate-high-commissioner-refugees-office.html>
- OHCHR, *Report of the Independent International Fact-finding Mission on Myanmar, A/HRC/39/64*. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/274/54/pdf/G1827454.pdf?OpenElement>

## **Additional Resources**

- Canada. 2018. "Canada's strategy to respond to Rohingya crisis". *Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada*, May 23. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/05/23/canadas-strategy-respond-rohingya-crisis>
- Canada. 2007. *Special Economic Measures (Burma) Regulations, SOR/2007-285*. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2007-285/FullText.html>
- Canada. 2017. *Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act (Sergei Magnitsky Law)*, S.C. 2017, c. 21. <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/J-2.3/>
- Harris, Kathleen. 2018. "An emotional Bob Rae tells Senate of rape, oppression of Rohingya as UN strikes repatriation deal". *CBC News*, June 6. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/rae-envoy-myanmar-rohingya-1.4694430>

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