

Call for Papers: New Perspectives on the Rohingya Crisis
Policy and Politics
June 2022

The New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy seeks original research papers examining key issues related to the Rohingya crisis, with a focus on identifying sustainable short-, medium-, and long-term solutions. With the recent U.S. determination that Myanmar's military committed crimes against humanity and genocide against the Rohingya, the international community is once again focused on this crisis. This call for papers focuses on policy and political issues that relate to the root causes of the crisis – issues that must be resolved in laying the foundation for durable solutions for the Rohingya and Myanmar as a whole.

The root causes of the Rohingya crisis are deeply embedded in the construct of Myanmar's nation state, both prior to and since independence; Burmese national and ethnic identity, including Bamar-Buddhist chauvinism; and the nature of authoritarian and autarkic military rule in Myanmar. While discrimination and intolerance toward the Rohingya has been a near-constant characteristic of Myanmar's ruling groups and society, the February 2021 military coup has reoriented the country's politics in ways that have created new opportunities to shift these dynamics and reconstruct a national identity that is more inclusive. The Rohingya community is engaging with and participating in these historic conversations and is heavily involved in various elements of pro-democracy and anti-coup efforts, advocating for its voice to be heard and rights to be respected at all levels. While progress has been slow and often halting, those in the vanguard of the current pro-democracy movement have been among the most assertive in pushing for recognition of Rohingya identity, nationality, and rights. The current situation presents an unprecedented opportunity.

New Lines is seeking research papers that address this situation, either in whole or with regard to specific elements of the underlying political and policy structures, institutions, and principles that are involved in advancing a tolerant and inclusive national identity within a democratic, plural society. Authors should specifically take account of how Myanmar's democratic political elite is shifting away from its historic preference for a strictly unitary political system toward a yet-undefined redistribution of authority to a system of ethnic-based homelands governing in political condominium with a Bamar-dominated central heartland. Papers could explore themes related to: the underlying political issues and root causes of the Rohingya crisis, including identity, belonging, and security within Myanmar civic and political spaces; identifying potential confidence-building, demilitarization, and security sector reform, community reintegration and resilience, conflict resolution, and legal and governance reform measures; and other necessary political and policy prerequisites for potential durable refugee returns and community reintegration within Myanmar. Papers could also consider the role of the international community and what policy and political mechanisms can be used to address the crisis in the short and long term.

Submission process:

Authors should initially submit an abstract, no longer than one page, outlining the research topic, thesis, theoretical approach, and methodology to the stated problem. Authors may also submit



additional background information on themselves, including a curriculum vitae and a bibliography of relevant research or publications. The New Lines Selection Committee will review each submission and notify selected authors that they have been chosen to move forward with full papers. Abstract submissions will open Tuesday, June 21, 2022, and will close at 5:00 PM EDT on Monday, July 11, 2022. An honorarium will be provided to authors of selected abstracts upon completion of full papers.

Guidelines:

- Abstract submissions should be no longer than one (1) page, in 12-point Times New Roman, single spaced. Those selected will be required to submit a final paper between ten (10) and twelve (12) pages in length.
- Abstracts may be submitted by single or multiple authors. **Preference will be given to Rohingya authors.**
- Papers should be written for an audience of interested non-experts, avoiding jargon and technical language. Papers should be formatted, including reference notations, using the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) and submitted as an editable Word document (.doc or .docx).
- Each submission may include the author's curriculum vitae and bibliography.
- Authors may be requested to present their papers or otherwise engage with impacted communities and/or communities of practice. New Lines may publish selected papers.

Please submit questions and abstracts for consideration to Emily Prey:

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