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FROM HAVEN TO HOSTILITY: INDIA'S CHANGING IMMIGRATION POLICY ON ROHINGYA REFUGEES

India has long been hailed as a moral and material sanctuary for displaced populations in South Asia. Despite not being a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, the country has crafted a robust historical identity as a haven for persecuted communities. From the Zoroastrians fleeing Iran in the 8th century, to the Tibetans escaping Chinese repression in 1959, and the Chakmas and Hajongs from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in the 1960s, India has welcomed diversity with open arms.

During World War II, India also hosted Polish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution. In the 1980s and 1990s, the country welcomed Tamil refugees arriving from Sri Lanka, which allowed them to settle in southern India with relative administrative tolerance.

India's migration policy was based on more than cultural



ethos; it was rooted in customary international law, constitutional protections, and the Gandhian–Nehruvian vision of human dignity and asylum, and was often exercised through executive discretion and judicial compassion.

India's judiciary has traditionally defended refugee rights by invoking Article 21 of India's Constitution which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, through which the country has implicitly recognised the international legal principle of non-refoulement—most notably in the landmark judgment National Human Rights Commission v. State of Arunachal Pradesh (1996).

In recent years, this moral high ground has slowly begun to erode. This erosion is increasingly evident in the government's treatment of the Rohingya, a stateless Muslim minority displaced by ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

India's Response to the Rohingya Crisis: The Early Years

Having faced systemic discrimination in Myanmar for decades, violence toward the Rohingya people reached genocidal levels during the 2012 Rakhine State riots, and later escalated to the 2017 military-led operations that forced over 700,000 Rohingya out of Myanmar and into neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh and India. An estimated 40,000 Rohingya fled to India, settling in urban slums in the areas of Assam, Jammu, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mewat (Haryana).

■ Source: jurist.org

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CA YUNUS DISCUSSES ECONOMIC RECOVERY, ROHINGYA EDUCATION WITH EX-BRITISH PM GORDON BROWN

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus held a telephone conversation on Friday with former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Their discussion centred on Bangladesh's ongoing economic recovery efforts and the urgent need to enhance educational opportunities for Rohingya refugee children, reads a press statement issued by the CA's Press Wing today (13 June).

Gordon Brown, who currently serves as the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, commended Professor Yunus for his leadership in steering



Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and ex-British premier Gordon Brown. Photos: Collected

Bangladesh through economic challenges. The two leaders expressed deep concern over the educational plight of Rohingya children residing in Bangladesh's refugee camps. With over half a million children lacking access to formal education, both emphasised the critical

importance of providing learning opportunities to prevent a "lost generation". "We must ensure that Rohingya children grow up with hope and the tools to build a better future," Professor Yunus stated, highlighting his government's commitment to mobilising support for the Rohingya community.

Gordon Brown indicated his willingness to collaborate with Bangladesh to expand educational programmes within the camps, drawing on his global advocacy for education.

■ Source: tbsnews.net

BADURIA: 22 ROHINGYAS, STAYING IN INDIA FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS, ARRESTED

Tension spread in Baduria after 22 Rohingyas were arrested early on Friday morning who were allegedly staying in India for the past 10 years. Superintendent of Police (SP), Bashirhat Police District, Hossain Mehedi Rehman, said: "We have come to know that the arrested Rohingyas had come to Baduria from Hyderabad. They had taken shelter in an abandoned house. We are investigating to find out what

they were up to." According to sources, early Friday morning, residents of the Sayestanagar area alerted Baduria Police Station about a group of suspicious individuals taking shelter in an abandoned house. Acting on the tip-off, a police team swiftly reached the spot and detained 22 people, including several women. During interrogation, the detainees confessed that they were Rohingyas and had come from Hyderabad.

Later, police registered a case against them under appropriate sections of the law and arrested the Rohingyas. The arrested people had crossed over to the Indian territory about 10 years ago and went to Hyderabad, where they used to work as rag pickers. Recently, they reportedly planned to return to Bangladesh through the Bashirhat border.

■ Source: millenniumpost.in