

World Refugee Day Statement

Sunday, June 20 marks the United Nations' World Refugee Day, a time to highlight refugees worldwide, applaud their courage, and highlight their contributions. The US Campaign for Burma recognizes the 1.1 million refugees, as estimated by UNHCR, who have fled Burma and comprise the Burmese refugee diaspora. Before the February coup, Burma was already one of the [top five source countries](#) of refugees worldwide. As the number of people fleeing the Burmese military's violence increases, we acknowledge many more from Burma are likely to walk the difficult journey of a refugee.

Despite life's challenges, there are numerous examples of how refugees from Burma shine and impact communities around our world. Few examples include the Chin Human Rights Organization has [empowered](#) thousands of Chin refugees in India and Malaysia to help them reach their full potential. With help from the Rohingya Women Development Network, Rohingya women in Malaysia are [taught](#) about their rights and the key roles they play in society. Internally displaced Karenni and their refugee diaspora are supported by the collective work of the Karenni Civil Society Network, a Karenni led effort that also [speaks out](#) against the common human rights abuses experienced by ethnic minorities across Burma. These efforts are worthy of celebration and highlight what refugees bring to strengthen our communities.

Myra Dahgaypaw, Director for US Campaign for Burma, shares "on this World Refugee Day, I pray that all the refugees and the IDPs around the world are able to live in peace, security, and dignity. However, they will not be able to heal, learn, and shine while their basic rights are violated. We must continue to raise awareness, amplify their voices, and demand justice and accountability."

It is refugees' struggles and contributions that drives the US Campaign for Burma's efforts to amplify refugee voices and advocate for human rights. We hope today you reflect on how refugees contribute to your community and recognize that more needs to be done to follow the lead of refugees who can direct us all in solving issues big and small around the world.

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