



Tuesday, 17 July 2018

**Rohingya-Canadian Advisory Council**

- Raees Tinmaung Ahmed
- Zainab Arcani
- Anwar Arkani
- Memuna Moolla
- Mohamed Shofi
- Mohamed Tayab
- Yasmin Ullah

Via Email: s. 19 (1)

s. 19 (1)

**RE: CMHR's exhibit content on Aung San Suu Kyi and atrocities committed against Rohingya in Burma**

This letter is in regards to a gallery content review which began in January 2018 concerning the Canadian Museum for Human Rights's (CMHR) representation of Aung San Suu Kyi and the atrocities committed against Rohingya in Burma. In response to concerns that have emerged regarding the response of Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counselor of Burma (Myanmar), to the atrocities being committed against Rohingya Muslims at the hands of Burma's military, the CMHR's Internal Content Review Committee has undertaken an assessment of its core gallery content on Aung San Suu Kyi in the "What Are Human Rights?" gallery and in the "Turning Points for Humanity" gallery. In addition, the Committee has assessed the separate but related issue of representation of Rohingya experiences in the CMHR more generally.

Aung San Suu Kyi is currently represented in the "What Are Human Rights?" gallery as an image and text in the Human Rights through Time exhibit. In "Turning Points for Humanity", her photograph is currently included in the Honorary Canadians exhibit, depicted on the back of one of the Digital Books through a back-lit, life-sized image. There is also a quote from her on another panel in this exhibit which reads, "There is horror but there is also immense hope in this world where dedicated people translate their commitment to human rights into action."

With regard to the image and text of Aung San Suu Kyi in the "What are Human Rights?" gallery, the Museum noted that the exhibit element features individuals selected for their positive contribution to human rights and does not provide context or problematize the current situation with regard to Aung San Suu Kyi's role in the face of the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims. Accordingly, the Museum has decided to remove Aung San Suu Kyi's image from the Human Rights through Time exhibit, to be replaced with a Rohingya human rights defender, to be informed by dialogue with the Rohingya Canadian community. Additionally, the museum will display an artefact related to Rohingya experiences in the case immediately beside the image in question. Estimated date of implementation for these

specific changes will be provided following the identification of a replacement human rights defender as well as a suitable artefact for display.

For the life-sized image of Aung San Suu Kyi and quotation in the "Turning Points for Humanity" gallery, the Museum identified several problems. The Honorary Canadians exhibit is important for the gallery and provides an accurate overview of individuals who have been designated as Honorary Canadians. The text that accompanies Aung San Suu Kyi, written in 2013, does not address her actions in light of the current crisis and is therefore out of date and problematic. The use of her quote to bookend the exhibit is similarly problematic as it elevates her status and significance in the exhibit above the other Honorary Canadians featured. Finally, the life-sized glowing image of her is problematic as it symbolically places her on a pedestal as a shining example of a human rights defender, without context on the current situation in Burma.

With these considerations in mind, the Museum has decided that the panel featuring a quote from Suu Kyi be replaced by a quote from one of the other Honorary Canadians, and the panel for Suu Kyi be re-designed and re-interpreted. The revised panel will minimize the visual impact of Suu Kyi (by grey-washing or blurring the image, or not presenting an image at all) and use the space for text to provide context and explain some of the main points of concern about Suu Kyi. Finally, the Museum will move this panel from its current placement in sequential order, which places her in the centre of the exhibit, to the end of the exhibit. We are working on logistics to implement the change and anticipate that these specific changes will be implemented by the end of January 2019. In the meantime, the light illuminating Aung San Suu Kyi's image will be dimmed, accompanied by an updated temporary sign explaining why.

Thank you very much for helping us understand the gravity of these concerns. We hope you will find these resolutions acceptable and we look forward to continued cooperation with all of you on human rights issues of shared concern.

Sincerely,  
s. 19 (1)

Angela Cassie  
Vice-President, Public Affairs and Programs

**Briefing Note**

**Quarterly Meeting with Mayor Bowman**

**Friday, December 8, 2017, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**CMHR Executive Boardroom**

**In attendance**

His Worship Brian Bowman, Mayor of Winnipeg

John Young, President & CEO, CMHR

**Key Messages**

Not relevant  
[Redacted text block]

Not relevant  
[Redacted text block]

Not relevant  
[Redacted text block]

Not relevant  
[Redacted text block]

Not relevant

**Aung Sun Suu Kyi and Honorary Canadians** - Many people are calling upon the Canadian government to revoke the honorary Canadian citizenship bestowed upon Aung San Suu Kyi. The Museum has also received some questions about whether we will remove in-gallery content related to Suu Kyi. We do not plan on removing this content from our gallery at this time, but have instead supplemented the in-gallery content with signage which addresses the current situation and have engaged people online through facebook. The signage reads: "Grave concerns have emerged about the plight of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority. Hundreds of thousands have fled to Bangladesh to escape violence and persecution. Many Canadians are critical of Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to condemn targeted attacks against the Rohingya. Some have called for her honorary Canadian citizenship to be revoked. What do you think? How should we view previous human rights achievements in the face of present-day events? Join the discussion and share your thoughts on the Museum's Facebook page."

Not relevant

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

## Internal Content Review Committee – Recommendations re: Exhibit Content on Aung San Suu Kyi and the Rohingya Genocide

2018-02-17

### Summary

In response to concerns that have emerged regarding the response of Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counselor of Myanmar, to the genocide of Rohingya Muslims at the hands of Myanmar's military, the CMHR's Internal Content Review Committee has undertaken an assessment of its core gallery content on Aung San Suu Kyi in the What Are Human Rights? gallery as well as in the Turning Points for Humanity gallery. In addition, the Committee has assessed the separate but related issue of representation of Rohingya experiences in the CMHR more generally.

Aung San Suu Kyi is represented in What Are Human Rights? as an image in the timeline exhibit. Content consists of the image with the following text: "Aung San Suu Kyi, born 1945. Burmese pro-democracy leader, political prisoner, 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner." Insight station content also includes a quote from her but does not include body text (as is standard for the image band). The quote reads "Genuine tolerance requires an active effort to try to understand the point of view of others; it implies broad-mindedness and vision...".

In Turning Points for Humanity, she is included in the Honorary Canadians exhibit, depicted on the back of the diptychs through a life-sized image. The text that accompanies the image reads "Aung San Suu Kyi is known internationally as a champion of peace, democracy and non-violence in Burma. She was made an Honorary Canadian Citizen in 2007." There is also a quote from her on another panel in the exhibit. She is the only Honorary Canadian to have a quote featured in this way. The quote reads "There is horror but there is also immense hope in this world where dedicated people translate their commitment to human rights into action."

In addition to these two exhibit elements that include content on Aung San Suu Kyi, there is a photo of a refugee family from Myanmar that is Rohingya in the Turning Points for Humanity gallery that accompanies content on the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The family is not identified as Rohingya in the image caption.

Committee Assessment – Timeline Exhibit: The image band in the timeline exhibit features individuals selected for their positive contributions to human rights. This is in contrast to the panels/entries in the main portion of the timeline, which include both steps forward and setbacks in human rights. As such, the important nuance of the broader exhibit – the balance of positive and negative stories – does not apply to the image band, which consists of individuals viewed as human rights champions. Because of this positioning, the Committee agreed that the inclusion of Aung San Suu Kyi is problematic in this regard, particularly as insight station content for the image band consists only of an image and a quote and does not provide body text to problematize the current situation with regard to Aung San Suu Kyi's role in the face of the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims.

Recommendation: Because the interpretive approach of the image band positions individuals as positive contributors to human rights, the Committee recommends removing Aung San Suu Kyi's image from the exhibit and replacing her with a Rohingya human rights defender to be determined in dialogue with the Rohingya Canadian community. The Committee does note that, due to the physical construction of the exhibit, this would be a fairly costly remediation item, and could be only completed during maintenance week next January at the earliest. Because of this, the Committee recommends a short-term remediation to replace the image of Suu Kyi with the image of the new defender and a vinyl-wrapped label until we are able to complete the more permanent change to the label on the etched corian shelf. Additionally, the Committee recommends displaying an artefact related to Rohingya experiences in the case immediately beside the image in question.

Committee Assessment – Honorary Canadians: The Honorary Canadians exhibit serves a number of important content-based and experiential objectives in the Turning Points for Humanity gallery. The large-scale, life-sized images introduce an engaging, human element in a gallery that is largely technical, focused on human rights declarations and conventions. The Honorary Canadians also introduce an important Canadian perspective on international issues, therefore furthering the Museum's mandate and metanarrative in highlighting Canadian contributions to human rights, and aligning with the approach taken in other galleries focused on international content by including Canadian content.

The interpretation of the exhibit is straightforward—it features those individuals who have been named Honorary Canadian Citizens, using one image and approximately two sentences to describe the accomplishments of the Honorary Canadian and the date on which they received citizenship. As Aung San Suu Kyi remains an Honorary Canadian, the exhibit remains factually accurate—it presents Honorary Canadians, and she is one of them.

The text that accompanies Aung San Suu Kyi describes her accomplishments and reputation in the present tense, stating that she "is" known for her contributions to human rights. This is in contrast with the text used to describe every other Honorary Canadian, which refers to their accomplishments in the past tense as a way to describe the achievements leading to their honorary citizenship. The Committee agreed that the use of the present tense to describe Aung San Suu Kyi, in contrast with the past tense used to describe others, is problematic in light of current views toward her contributions to human rights. The Committee also agreed that the use of a quote from her to bookend the exhibit is similarly problematic in that it elevates her status and significance in the exhibit above the other individuals featured. Finally, the Committee agreed that the life-sized glowing image of her is problematic in its placement of her on a pedestal as a shining example of human rights.

Recommendation: The Committee agreed that the exhibit is important to retain in the gallery for reasons of both content and visitor experience. Furthermore, the exhibit remains accurate in that it represents Honorary Canadians, and Aung San Suu Kyi is an Honorary Canadian. The Committee does, however, recommend revising the text that accompanies her image to

~~describe her contributions to human rights in past tense and introduce nuance with regard to her legacy. The Committee also recommends removing her quote from the bookend panel in the exhibit, and replacing it with a quote from one of the other Honorary Canadians.~~ Given the number of problematic elements described above, however, the Committee recommends the following changes to the exhibit: the panel featuring a quote from Suu Kyi be replaced by a quote from one of the other Honorary Canadians, and the panel for Suu Kyi be re-designed and re-interpreted. The revised panel would minimize the visual impact of Suu Kyi (by grey-washing or blurring the image, or not presenting an image at all) and use the space for text to provide context and explain some of the main points of contention about Suu Kyi. The panel could include a quote or reference to the letter from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau calling on her to live up to the standards of honorary Canadian citizenship and take action to stop the persecution of Rohingya. Finally, the Committee recommends moving this panel from the centre to the end of the exhibit to maintain a more pleasant visual aesthetic. This may be dependent on logistics and exhibit maintenance.

Committee Assessment – Extent of Museum-Wide Content on Rohingya: The Committee discussed the representation of Rohingya-related content more generally, including the image in Turning Points for Humanity that accompanies the content on the Refugee Convention. There are a number of opportunities to further reflection and dialogue on this topic, not limited to exhibit content. These include community engagement, public programming, oral history interviewing/collections building, and a temporary exhibition.

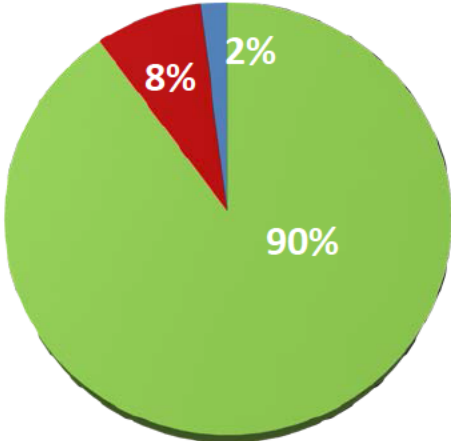
Recommendation: The Committee recommends the Museum continue its engagement with the Rohingya community through a number of means described above. The Committee also recommends looking into the cost and feasibility of revising the image caption noted above to note explicitly that the family shown is Rohingya.

Commented [JG1]: I'm not sure we want to pursue this- Corey has noted that it would be extremely costly

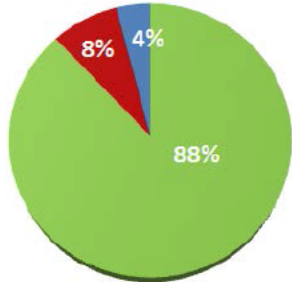
# CMHR media coverage report: Q3 2017-18 – Oct to Dec

CMHR Communications monitors and analyzes media coverage of the Museum to help guide and evaluate communications activities. This report includes assessment of tone, quantity, Earned Media Value and geographic reach of coverage, and presents highlights for the month.

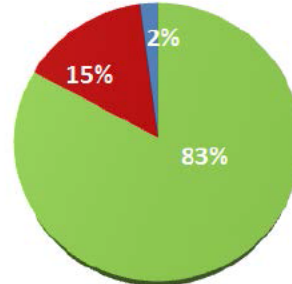
- Positive - 609
- Negative - 52
- Neutral - 12



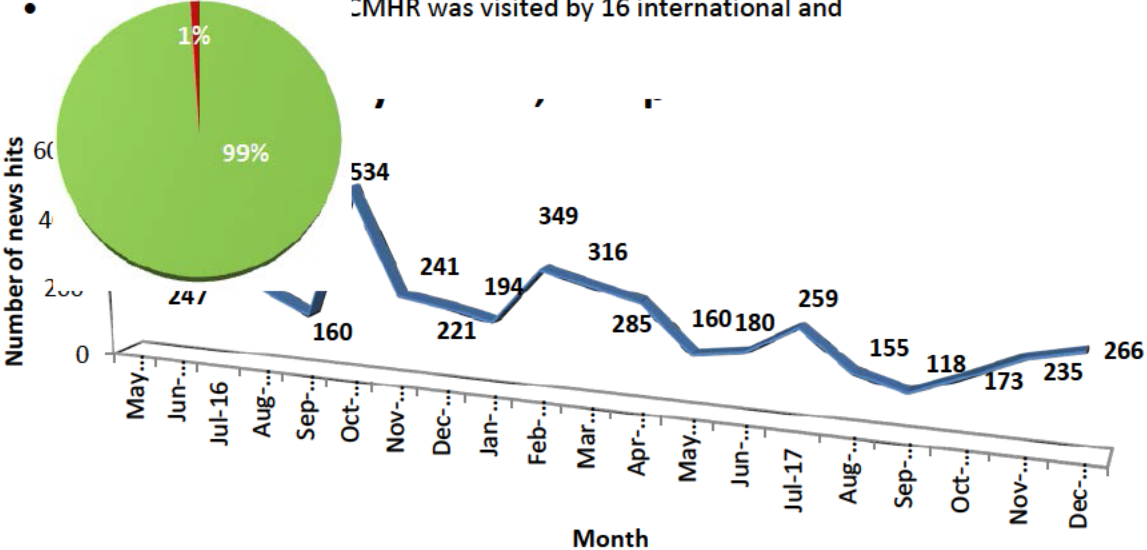
October - 173 news mentions



November – 235 news mentions



- There were 674 news mentions (or “hits”) of the CMHR in this period – of which 92 per cent were positive or neutral. The relatively high percentage of negative stories in November was mainly due to concerns over exhibits featuring Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi.
- December – 266 news mentions
- CMHR was visited by 16 international and





**From:** [Lindsay Machalek](#)  
**To:** [S. 19 \(1\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Angela Cassie](#); [S. 19 \(1\)](#)  
**Subject:** Facebook engagement re: Rohingya Muslims  
**Date:** November 23, 2017 4:10:00 PM

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Hi Senator McPhedran,

I hope you're doing well! Angela asked me to send the links below to you. They are related to some of the engagement that we have been doing on Facebook in regards to Aung San Suu Kyi and the situation Rohingya Muslims are currently facing in Myanmar.

<https://www.facebook.com/canadianmuseumforhumanrights/photos/a.414008475512.178253.97884715512/10155929032255513/?type=3&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/canadianmuseumforhumanrights/posts/10155817767245513>

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Lindsay Machalek

Partnerships and Government Relations Advisor | Conseillère en partenariats et relations gouvernementales

**Canadian Museum for Human Rights | Musée canadien pour les droits de la personne**

85 Israel Asper Way

Winnipeg, MB R3C 0L5

T: 204-289-2111

F: 204-289-2001

TTY: 204-289-2050

[Lindsay.machalek@humanrights.ca](mailto:Lindsay.machalek@humanrights.ca)

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**Canadian Museum for Human Rights**



Published by Rémi Courcelles [?] · 14 September at 12:13 · 🌐

Six people have received honorary Canadian citizenship for their contributions to human rights. They're featured in our Turning Points for Humanity gallery.

Aung San Suu Kyi is among them. As you can see in this opinion piece, she's currently being challenged for her role in relation to an ongoing human rights crisis.

What's your view? How do present-day actions influence how you feel about someone's past human rights achievements?



### Why Canada should revoke Aung San Suu Kyi's honorary citizenship - Macleans.ca

A new petition calls on Ottawa to reverse a decision to make Suu Kyi an honorary Canadian. There is now ample evidence she doesn't deserve this rare honour.

MACLEANS.CA

👤 4,460 people reached

**Boost Post**

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share



👍❤️😞 Ashley Grenstone, Christine De Fehr and 38 others

Top comments ▾

6 shares



Write a comment...



**Nazneen Khan** On December when I visited the human rights museum with my husband, we both said that why human rights reserved this women's photo here? She killed her own ethnic minority. She has no rights and doesn't deserve this rare honour.

Like · Reply · Message · 5 · 15 September at 13:43 · Edited



**Canadian Museum for Human Rights** Hi Nazneen, thanks for sharing your views with us. As you say, honorary Canadian citizenship is a rare honour, bestowed upon only six individuals. In 2007, Suu Kyi was recognized for promoting fundamental freedoms and democratic principles. Do you think recognizing past human rights achievements is still appropriate? Or do current actions negate those achievements entirely?

Like · Reply · Commented on by Rémi Courcelles [?] · 14 September at 16:58 · Edited



**Nazneen Khan** Thanks for the msg. She got recognition for her past good activities. It is very unfortunate that she forgot her past and went against the fundamental of freedom and democratic principles once she promoted. Her present activities raise questions on her past good work. People should be judged based on their present actions.

Like · Reply · Message · 2 · 14 September at 16:38 · Edited



**Canadian Museum for Human Rights** Thanks to you for sharing your thoughts, Nazneen.

Like · Reply · 1 · Commented on by Rémi Courcelles [?] · 14 September at 16:39



Write a reply...



**Christine Barritt** Aung San Suu Kyi has proven herself to be a shallow con-artist who is only concerned with her own political survival. She should return her Nobel Peace Prize (and the prize money!) immediately. As for honorary Canadian citizenship: HELL NO!

Like · Reply · Message · 4 · 14 September at 13:13



**Youssef Mouzahem** She definitely does does not deserve to be at any human rights venue. This contradiction between her past and current actions!

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 15 September at 20:06



**Bashir Brebesh** She has a blind eye on human right violations against Rohingya minority for political gains as well to keep her relationship with army

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 14 September at 15:45



**Mmz Khan** We saw everything, we knew everything unfortunately we didn't do anything. It happens so many time. Couldn't do anything. Feeling ashamed.....

Like · Reply · Message · 14 September at 16:53



**Deanna Fourt** Perhaps Canada was too quick to give the honorary Canadian citizenship.

Like · Reply · Message · 14 September at 23:04



**Ashley Grenstone** Good deeds and ethics in the past don't justify genocide in the now.

Like · Reply · Message · 17 September at 19:18



**Kris Babúrek** Everything has roots. Problems have roots too.

Like · Reply · Message · 1 · 14 September at 13:10



**youssef mouzahem**

@youssefmouzahem

Follow

I don't think she still deserves to be at any human rights venue!

@hrw @CMHR\_News @cmhr



7:51 PM - 15 Sep 2017 from Winnipeg, Manitoba

1 Like



1 Reply 1 Retweet 1 Like 1 Message



Tweet your reply



**#AtCMHR** @CMHR\_News · Sep 16

Replying to @youssefmouzahem @hrw

Thanks for your feedback. Do you think recognition for past achievements is no longer possible?

2 Replies 1 Retweet 1 Like 1 Message



**youssef mouzahem** @youssefmouzahem · Sep 16

Absolutely! How can the Human Rights Museum recognize a person who is involved in an ethnic genocide?!

1 Reply 1 Retweet 1 Like 1 Message



**#AtCMHR** @CMHR\_News · Sep 16

We invite you to share your views on our Facebook page as well, where we are exploring the question of honorary citizenship & recognition

1 Reply 1 Retweet 1 Like 1 Message



**youssef mouzahem** @youssefmouzahem · Sep 16

I did. Thank you!

1 Reply 1 Retweet 1 Like 1 Message

**From:** [Maureen Fitzhenry](#)  
**To:** [Louise Waldman](#); [Angela Cassie](#); [Rhea Yates](#); [Lindsay Machalek](#)  
**Cc:** [Karine Beaudette](#); [Andree Forest](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Feedback from Jeremy & Kalthleen re: lollipop signage  
**Date:** November 28, 2017 4:30:22 PM

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A few little thoughts:

- I personally prefer “grave” and think it sounds stronger than “serious”. But whatever.
- If we say “Myanmar’ Muslim Rohingya minority”, is it not implicit that their homes were in Myanmar? I think we should keep “Bangladesh”, as it relays that they had to leave the country.
- Don’t like both sentences starting with “Many”.
- “taken” is not needed
- As Clint pointed out, ASSK’s problem is not an action or a violation but a failure to take action – I thought that had been changed to “events” or “developments”

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**From:** Louise Waldman  
**Sent:** November-28-17 4:20 PM  
**To:** Angela Cassie; Rhea Yates; Maureen Fitzhenry; Lindsay Machalek  
**Cc:** Karine Beaudette; Andree Forest  
**Subject:** RE: Feedback from Jeremy & Kalthleen re: lollipop signage

Here it is with all feedback (that I think works) included:

**Serious** concerns have emerged about the plight of **Myanmar’s** Muslim Rohingya minority. Hundreds of thousands have fled **their homes in Myanmar** to escape violence and persecution.

**Many** Canadians are critical of Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to condemn these targeted attacks **taken** against the Rohingya. **Many** are calling for her honorary Canadian citizenship to be revoked.

What do you think? How should we view previous human rights achievements in the face of present-day **violations**? Join the discussion and share your thoughts on the Museum’s Facebook page.

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**From:** Angela Cassie  
**Sent:** November-28-17 4:17 PM  
**To:** Louise Waldman; Rhea Yates; Maureen Fitzhenry; Lindsay Machalek  
**Cc:** Karine Beaudette; Andree Forest  
**Subject:** RE: Feedback from Jeremy & Kalthleen re: lollipop signage

Hi, I am having version control issues. What is the final proposed version?

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**From:** Louise Waldman  
**Sent:** November 28, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** Angela Cassie <[Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca](mailto:Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca)>; Rhea Yates <[Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca](mailto:Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca)>; Maureen Fitzhenry <[Maureen.Fitzhenry@humanrights.ca](mailto:Maureen.Fitzhenry@humanrights.ca)>; Lindsay Machalek <[Lindsay.Machalek@humanrights.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Machalek@humanrights.ca)>  
**Cc:** Karine Beaudette <[Karine.Beaudette@humanrights.ca](mailto:Karine.Beaudette@humanrights.ca)>; Andree Forest <[Andree.Forest@humanrights.ca](mailto:Andree.Forest@humanrights.ca)>

**From:** [Louise Waldman](#)  
**To:** [Angela Cassie](#); [Rhea Yates](#); [Maureen Fitzhenry \(Maureen.Fitzhenry@humanrights.ca\)](#); [Lindsay Machalek](#)  
**Cc:** [Karine Beaudette](#); [Andree Forest](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback from Jeremy & Kalthleen re: lollipop signage  
**Date:** November 28, 2017 1:27:00 PM

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Please review. I personally like Jeremy's suggestions and believe they make the text stronger, and think most of Kathleen's suggestions also make sense. I don't think we need to add Aung Sun Suy Kyi's title or our fb address but let me know your thoughts.

Cheers  
Louise

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**From:** Jodi Giesbrecht  
**Sent:** November-28-17 12:24 PM  
**To:** Helen Delacretaz; Louise Waldman  
**Cc:** Corey Timpson  
**Subject:** Re: Interim Text for Temp signage

And feedback from Jeremy (which I entirely agree with):

-understand the intent to speak in generalizations, but "present-day events" is pretty soft. Maybe "present-day violations."

-similarly, "actions against" is similarly soft. Maybe something like "...failing to condemn these targeted attacks against the Rohingya."

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,  
Jodi

---

**From:** Helen Delacretaz <[Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca](mailto:Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 12:22 PM  
**To:** Louise Waldman <[Louise.Waldman@humanrights.ca](mailto:Louise.Waldman@humanrights.ca)>  
**Cc:** Corey Timpson <[Corey.Timpson@humanrights.ca](mailto:Corey.Timpson@humanrights.ca)>, Jodi Giesbrecht <[Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca](mailto:Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Interim Text for Temp signage

Please see edits from Kathleen attached:

---

**From:** Kathleen Wiens <[Kathleen.Wiens@humanrights.ca](mailto:Kathleen.Wiens@humanrights.ca)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 12:16 PM  
**To:** Helen Delacretaz <[Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca](mailto:Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Interim Text for Temp signage

My ideas are BOLDDED below, and are really just to ensure that all connections are being made for the reader and that we don't assume that people are aware of certain details that tie each element together. I'll let you decide if you think these changes are critical or not. It is still in-

gallery text, so I treated it the same as I would other in gallery text.

- KW

**Serious** concerns have emerged about the plight of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority. Hundreds of thousands have fled **their homes in Myanmar to Bangladesh** [*do we need Bangladesh? Is it critical info, or distracting?*] to escape violence and persecution.

Many Canadians are critical of **Myanmar's State Counsellor** Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to condemn **violent** actions taken against the Rohingya. **Many** are calling for her honorary Canadian citizenship to be revoked. [*that's a very long sentence, I think making it into two will give more punch to the second thought*]

What do you think? How should we view previous human rights achievements in the face of present-day events? Join the discussion and share your thoughts on the Museum's Facebook page. **Insert fbook address or access code?**

---

**From:** Helen Delacretaz <[Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca](mailto:Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca)>

**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 11:57 AM

**To:** Kathleen Wiens <[kathleen.wiens@humanrights.ca](mailto:kathleen.wiens@humanrights.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: Interim Text for Temp signage

Grave concerns have emerged about the plight of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority. Hundreds of thousands have fled to Bangladesh to escape violence and persecution.

Many Canadians are critical of Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to condemn actions taken against the Rohingya, and are calling for her honorary Canadian citizenship to be revoked.

What do you think? How should we view previous human rights achievements in the face of present-day events? Join the discussion and share your thoughts on the Museum's Facebook page.

**From:** Louise Waldman  
**To:** [Matthew Cheung](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Facebook comment  
**Date:** August 2, 2018 11:47:00 AM

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Yes, I think this is offensive enough to delete.

---

**From:** Matthew Cheung  
**Sent:** August-02-18 11:42 AM  
**To:** Louise Waldman <Louise.Waldman@humanrights.ca>  
**Subject:** Facebook comment

We received the following comment on Facebook. He also left the same message in a 1 star review:

The word "Human rights" has always been a political weapon used by the west against weak countries. Just to tell you that it doesnt matter whether your museum removed Everything about Aung San Suu Kyi, we all Myanmar citizens are behind her and will continue to uproot the Bangla thugs who called themselves Rohingya. Meanwhile Canada can take effort in receiving Rohingyas in your country and to the very liking of the Rohingya groups and islamic groups who managed to pressurize this pathetic museum. Good Luck Canada... Let's welcome Rohingyas.

Is the term "Bangla thugs" offensive enough to delete? I deleted another post of his where he referred to them as "Bangla cockroaches"



**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Corey Timpson](#)  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Contact Us  
**Date:** November 25, 2017 8:20:49 PM

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Submitted on Saturday, November 25, 2017  
Submitted by anonymous user: 127.0.0.1  
Submitted values are:

Your name: Why?

Your e-mail address: s. 19 (1)

Subject: Aung San Suu Kyi

Message:

Keeping Aung San Suu Kyi in the CMHR is an embarrassment to the museum, Canada, and the world.

You've made a joke out of human rights, and a joke of this city.

You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Department: Exhibitions & Museum Content

Would you like to receive event invitations, bulletins, newsletters, announcements and other electronic communications from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights? No  
email:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<https://humanrights.ca/node/1463/submission/25751>

Not relevant						
						Hand-written
s. 19 (1)	No	content, boutique	An amazing place. I was impressed by the 1st hand accounts. Glad to see "editorial" comment beside Aung San Suu Kyi. Mugs made in china? They (And us) of course, are still abusers.	Mixed	General Comment	Hand-written
Not relevant						
						-written





**From:** [Benjamin Nycum](#)  
**To:** [John Young](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Media Coverage of Aung San Suu Kyi Story  
**Date:** August 2, 2018 6:02:43 PM

---

Thank you for taking the time to provide this update and congratulations to the team under your talented and sensitive leadership to find the right path through this situation which has no right paths. The role and the leadership of the museum is critical in creating dialogue and I'm honored we have that opportunity. Thanks again John.

Benjie Nycum NSAA, AANB, NLAA, PMP  
CEO  
Adjunct Professor, Dalhousie University Faculty of Architecture and Planning  
Instructor, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

nycum+associates

[s. 19 \(1\)](#)

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William Nycum & Associates Limited  
[5555 Young Street, Halifax NS](#)  
[Canada B3K 1Z7](#)

[www.nycum.com](http://www.nycum.com)

On Aug 2, 2018, at 7:15 PM, John Young <[John.Young@humanrights.ca](mailto:John.Young@humanrights.ca)> wrote:

Dear Trustees,

I wanted to forward the following information to you. On Tuesday, we dimmed the lights on Aung San Suu Kyi in the Level Four Gallery, and removed her image from the timeline exhibit in L1. This was after having placed signs last Fall that articulate the controversy related to human rights violations in Myanmar. There were over 500 news stories yesterday about our decision and I think you should be aware of the coverage. I also attach the talking points that were developed prior to interviews. As per all coverage, any media requests that may come your way should be directed towards Louise Waldman, Manager of Communications and Marketing. Her contact information is [louise.waldman@humanrights.ca](mailto:louise.waldman@humanrights.ca).

**Subject:** FW: Mail from s. 19 journalist from Bangladesh

FYI – Should I respond and cc you Maureen?

**From:** s. 19 (1)

**Sent:** August 1, 2018 8:43 PM

**To:** Angela Cassie <[Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca](mailto:Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca)>

**Subject:** Mail from s. 19 journalist from Bangladesh

Hello, hope you are good. This is s. 19 (1) of Bangladesh's leading English daily Dhaka Tribune. Recently I heard that CMHR decided to remove the photo of Suu Kyi from the museum for her controversial role in the ongoing Rohingya crisis. I want to know more about the matter. Would you please tell me more in this regard. Its for news purpose. So I need your comment in this regard. Have a good day.

Version 1 (longer)

We have turned off the lights on one of Canada's honorary citizens. Before becoming leader of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi **became known as a champion** **need for** peace and democracy. Yet, **during her** time as leader, Rohingya Muslims in **Myanmar** have come under attack, facing **violence and persecution**. **Suu Kyi** continues to minimize the humanitarian crisis underway and denies the Rohingya have been specifically targeted.

Version 2 (shorter)

We have turned off the lights on one of Canada's honorary citizens. Aung San Suu Kyi championed peace and democracy before becoming leader of Myanmar. The Rohingya Muslims have faced violence and persecution in Myanmar, yet leader Suu Kyi denies the humanitarian crisis facing the Rohingya people.

Online links, just as potential suggestions:

"Tell them we're human: What Canada and the world can do about the Rohingya crisis," the report of Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar Bob Rae.

[http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_development-enjeux\\_developpement/response\\_conflict-reponse\\_conflits/crisis-crisis/rep\\_sem-rap\\_esm.aspx?lang=eng](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/response_conflict-reponse_conflits/crisis-crisis/rep_sem-rap_esm.aspx?lang=eng)

Canada's strategy to respond to Rohingya crisis:

<https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2018/05/23/canadas-strategy-respond-rohingya-crisis>

UNHCR (donate page)

[https://give.unhcr.ca/ea-action/action?ea\\_client.id=1920&ea\\_campaign.id=77357&en\\_txn10=18-SEM\\_Rohingya&gclid=Cj0KCOiw3v3YBRCOARIsAPkLbK6TJ7A7GdcIdGpBAfnaoQQ4ksID0ZNdx9HlUWmpMD1Gn\\_x8vObcKYaArSIEALw\\_wcB&gclid=aw.ds](https://give.unhcr.ca/ea-action/action?ea_client.id=1920&ea_campaign.id=77357&en_txn10=18-SEM_Rohingya&gclid=Cj0KCOiw3v3YBRCOARIsAPkLbK6TJ7A7GdcIdGpBAfnaoQQ4ksID0ZNdx9HlUWmpMD1Gn_x8vObcKYaArSIEALw_wcB&gclid=aw.ds)

**Commented [AP1]:** Gained recognition?

**Commented [AP2]:** The persecution goes back to 1948 when the Rohingya asked for an independent state following Burma's independence from British rule. However, there is data that show that persecution goes even further back.

**Commented [AP3]:** Myanmar is the name given to the country by the military junta. Burma is the name used by most activists and also the community. I can ask the curatorial committee how they would refer to the country, if you want?

**Commented [AP4]:** Should we be more specific? They have been haunted down, assassinated, disappeared, raped, burnt alive, etc. The brutality of the persecution is worth noting.

**Commented [AP5]:** She has refused to use the word Rohingya to refer to the persecuted minority. This is very important because it is at the core of the struggle.

**Commented [AP6]:** It might be worth including some of the critiques on Rae's report. A few activists and academics have spoken about the report falling short.

**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Louise Waldman](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aung San Suu Kyi  
**Date:** August 5, 2018 10:38:53 AM

---

Just forwarding this. Not sure if we are tracking responses.... Not sure if a reply is warranted as one is not requested...up to you!

-----Original Message-----

From: Info  
Sent: Saturday, August 4, 2018 10:07 PM  
To: Info <[info@humanrights.ca](mailto:info@humanrights.ca)>  
Subject: Aung San Suu Kyi

Submitted on Saturday, August 4, 2018  
Submitted by anonymous user: 174.116.69.164 Submitted values are:

Your name: s. 19 (1)  
Your e-mail address: s. 19 (1)  
Subject: Aung San Suu Kyi

Message:

It is with regret that I find your targetting of a female politician because of a Strong Muslim lobby group in Canada. I am glad you took this action as it shows the mindset of our country in 2018. You have not taken into account ARSA - who brought on this flight of the Rohingya from Rakhine. As a Canadian brought up in Burma\Myanmar - Canada does not know anything about the ethnic groups residing in Rakhine but believe everything stated by well-funded INGOs. There are Burmese Muslims, Chinese Muslims, Christians, Hindus all living together. Rohingya, coined in 1950s will be verified as to who can claim status, but citizens of Bangladesh who entered in 1970s cannot claim status. Your organization is not about rights as it never spoke to anyone else from Myanmar but bowed down to this lobby of money making Rohingya leaders who never help their own group with the dollars they take in. They provide misinformation about a baby democracy. Perhaps, your Board would like the Army government to take over Myanmar once again and place Daw Suu under arrest. As a leader, she has to know when to be silent to help her country grow in democracy and not play the Human Rights card for only Rohingya. She is trying to bring peace among the ethnic groups who have been waring since 1948.

It is a sad day for my country Canada when our leaders do not listen but take their cues from the misinformation pushed by many in this large money-making scheme. Many of the 700,000 refugees are still suffering while INGOs, Rights groups are raking in \$ for their own salaries. If you want to speak to the peoples from Myanmar in Canada it would be nice to contact them as they currently feel belittled by your actions.

Department: All Other Inquiries

Would you like to receive event invitations, bulletins, newsletters, announcements and other electronic communications from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights? Yes  
email:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<https://humanrights.ca/node/1463/submission/42034>



**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Louise Waldman](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aung San Suu Kyi  
**Date:** August 5, 2018 10:38:07 AM

---

Just forwarding this. Not sure if we are tracking responses.

-----Original Message-----

From: Info  
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 9:57 AM  
To: Info <[info@humanrights.ca](mailto:info@humanrights.ca)>  
Subject: Aung San Suu Kyi

Submitted on Thursday, August 2, 2018  
Submitted by anonymous user: 99.224.199.147 Submitted values are:

Your name: **s. 19 (1)**

Your e-mail address: **s. 19 (1)**

Subject: Aung San Suu Kyi

Message:

Congratulations for having the courage to remove the image of Aung San Suu Kyi from your display of human rights defenders.

By not speaking out or stopping the persecution and murder of Rohingya citizens in her country, she becomes complicit. She is no longer a moral leader in the world.

She should return her Nobel Peace Prize and Canada should terminate her honorary Canadian citizenship.

Thank you again.

Department: All Other Inquiries

Would you like to receive event invitations, bulletins, newsletters, announcements and other electronic communications from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights? Yes

email:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<https://humanrights.ca/node/1463/submission/41808>

**From:** [Helen Delacretaz](#)  
**To:** [Jodi Giesbrecht](#); [Rhea Yates](#); [Angela Cassie](#); [Louise Waldman](#); [Maureen Fitzhenry](#); [Jeremy Maron](#); [Clint Curle](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aung San Suu Kyi display  
**Date:** August 7, 2018 8:10:39 AM

---

Fyi -- I did not reply as didn't feel it was necessary, but if any of you wish to, please do.

On 2018-08-02, 11:20 PM, "Info" <info@humanrights.ca> wrote:

Submitted on Thursday, August 2, 2018  
Submitted by anonymous user: 127.0.0.1  
Submitted values are:

Your name: s. 19 (1)  
Your e-mail address s. 19 (1)  
Subject: Aung San Suu Kyi display

Message: Kudos! Bravo! Full marks (and then some) to you for your very smart treatment of the ASSK display. Please actively promote this approach as an alternative to the leave-it or tear-it -down binary choice that we've been faced with to date when it comes to contentious artifacts and displays. Your approach inspires conversation, investigation, examination and debate. In the future, why not ask the artists (gen) for ideas on how to alternatively present or re-dress (pun intended) these pieces on a case-by-case basis. Brilliant. Thank you

Department: Exhibitions & Museum Content

Would you like to receive event invitations, bulletins, newsletters, announcements and other electronic communications from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights? No  
email:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://humanrights.ca/node/1463/submission/41866>

**From:** s. 19 (1)  
**To:** [Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca](mailto:Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca)  
**Subject:** Re: Your feedback to the CMHR regarding Aung San Suu Kyi  
**Date:** August 23, 2018 9:20:45 PM

---

Dear Ms. Giesbrecht

I appreciate receiving your reply and clarifications.

Today is the eve of (ARSA) Arakan Rohingya Solidarity Army's last year August 25th unprecedented coordinated terror attacks on 30 security posts (including an army regiment head quarter and border guards) and non-Muslim native ethnic villages in the Northern Rakhine (one day after Aung San Suu Kyi's acceptance of Dr. Kofi Annan's report for a peaceful solution).

In response to the ARSA attacks, the army's clearance operation followed a week later that led to several months of chaos and mass exodus of refugees internally and externally.

ARSA clearly received the support from well known international terrorist organizations as noted by the International Crisis Group in **27 Oct 2017 Rohingya Crisis Report**: *"On 3 September, a senior leader of al-Qaeda in Yemen called for attacks on Myanmar and its leaders in response to the treatment of the Rohingya. On 13 September, al-Qaeda appealed to its members to support the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) militancy and warned that Myanmar would face "punishment" for its "crimes"."*

The danger of terrorist activities, which was the initial cause of events leading to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine, remains real and present today.

ARSA's brutal attacks against non-Muslims in Northern Rakhine are documented and published by the Amnesty International. The AI report on **"Myanmar: New evidence reveals Rohingya armed group massacred scores in Rakhine State"** can be read at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/05/myanmar-new-evidence-reveals-rohingya-armed-group-massacred-scores-in-rakhine-state/>

While hundreds of thousands of Muslim populations fled to Bangladesh, more than one third of minority non-Muslims population was internally displaced in Myanmar's Rakhine State, hundreds of them were killed as results of ARSA attacks. (Note: Over 90% of population in the conflict area Northern Rakhine are Muslims, non-Muslims native Rakhine, Dinet, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus represent less than 10% of the population). Actually, all communities in the region suffered from the humanitarian crisis from this senseless violence.

In addition to reports and presentations of Rohingya group, Muslim Task Force and Human Rights Groups, I sincerely hope that Museum officials would read the research papers and reports from Asia and around the world (such as the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Yusof Ishak Institute, International Crisis Group (ICG)) as you were making critical decision.

Below are some notable reports that Rohingya and the main stream human rights groups would not quote.

- Two weeks after ARSA's terror attacks, the ICG stated in its 8 September 2017 report that *"the 25 August attacks on Myanmar security forces by the militant group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), also known as Harakah al-Yaqin, which the government has designated a terrorist group, undoubtedly were intended as a provocation. Neither these attacks nor the reported killing of non-Rohingya civilians, at least some of which are undoubtedly the work of the group, are excusable, no matter what political agenda they claim to represent. Any government has the responsibility to defend itself and the people living in the country. At the same time, such government security responses need to be proportionate and not target civilians."* Details at report **"The Rakhine State Danger to Myanmar's Transition"**.
- 
- ICG's 27 Oct 2017 report on the **Rohingya Crisis: A Major Threat to Myanmar Transition and Regional Stability** stated that *Suu Kyi does not have the authority under the constitution to order the military to take a different approach, ...* It recommended the EU *"to Continue supporting strong, principled multilateral and bilateral engagement with Myanmar's civilian and military leaders in order to chart a way out of the crisis"*.
- 
- ICG **Report 292 / Asia** 7 December 2017 highlighted *the mass flight of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar's Rakhine State has created a humanitarian catastrophe and serious security risks, including potential cross-border militant attacks.*
- 
- Andrew Selth of the US Institute of Peace concluded in his 'PeaceWorks' No 140 August 2018 that *"the latest campaign against the Rohingyas has been a disaster for everyone. The Rohingyas have suffered most, but Aung San Suu Kyi, her government, the security forces, and the people of Myanmar have all lost, in different ways."*
- 
- As Mr. Selth pointed it is sad truth that it has been disaster for everyone; it should and could be solved with constructive engagements as recommended by late Dr. Kofi Annan in his last year August report. Mr. Annan did not recommend shaming, blaming and punishing approach to help the refugees and solve the incredibly complex issue.
- 
- Bangladesh Ambassador Kaiser (Bangladesh) spoke of *"upward of ½ million Bangalee trespassers (during the Bangladesh independence war)"* when he met UK Ambassador to Burma just before Christmas in 1975. Please see at link (retired UK Ambassador Derek Tonkin's) <http://www.networkmyanmar.org/ESW/Files/Kaiser-OBrien-23-Dec-1975.pdf>
- 
- In none of the documents from the British diplomatic archives up to 1982 does the designation "Rohingya" appear. Nor for that matter are they to be found, in the diplomatic archives of any other country represented in Burma and the UN from 1948 (Burma gained the independence from UK in 1948) - 1982. None of the British census described "Rohingya" from the day they conquered Rakhine (Arakan) state 1824 until they left Burma/Myanmar in 1948. Instead the British colonial records mentioned "Arakan Moslems, and Bangalee".

I and the Myanmar Canadian Community, share similar concerns and deep sympathy for all displaced persons fled the violence in Rakhine state.

However, we are disappointed with your museum action to blame and shame the Myanmar female political leader (first democratically elected over 60 years). I still believe your decision is based on the one-sided information and discussions.

Not only it will not help solving the problem (existed more than 70 years) that led to recent humanitarian crisis in today's internet information age but also led Canada to lose her credibility as respectable facilitator and supporter to find peaceful solution by all stakeholders.

I am glad that you cited the [Report of the Special Envoy to Myanmar](#). While Mr. Rae emphasized the unprecedented humanitarian crisis, he did not recommend any action to punish the Myanmar civilian government and leader.

Instead Mr. Rae recommended "*Canada should continue to pursue a policy of active engagement with the Government of Myanmar and should continue to provide development assistance focused on the needs of all communities in that country*". He also noted "*there is no conflict between our continuing advocacy for the rule of law, human rights, democracy and accountability and the needs of human development. This cannot happen without engaging the Government of Myanmar and continuing to seek from that government the necessary changes.*"

While the lobby and human rights groups are pushing the international community to punish the elected civilian government, and the leader (who does not have the power under the current constitution to direct the security forces in Myanmar), Mr. Rae, leading think tanks and academic researchers do not recommend the shaming and punishing the democratically elected civilian leader since would not help finding a solution to prevent future violence (contrary to your museum regrettable action).

I also would like to suggest that you should also discuss with the civil societies and local NGOs working with the displaced persons in Myanmar and Myanmar Canadian Community in addition to your discussions with human rights groups working with refugees in Bangladesh.

Above all, the refugees or displaced persons issue could be solved between Myanmar and Bangladesh with coordination and cooperation as good neighbors similar to successful handling of over 4 million Myanmar refugees and migrant workers issue in Thailand between Myanmar and Thailand.

Encouragement and supporting the cooperation and coordination will ease the suffering of vulnerable people and solve the issue; the threat of punishment will produce the opposite results.

Yours sincerely,

s. 19 (1)

, Canadian Burma Ethnic Nationalities Organization

s. 19 (1)

On Fri, Aug 10, 2018 at 12:05 PM Jodi Giesbrecht <[Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca](mailto:Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca)> wrote:

Dear s. 19 (1)

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding our updates to exhibition content so it reflects ongoing events in Myanmar. I wanted to clarify an incorrect assumption in your note to us, which suggests that our decision to update our content was the result of external lobbying. In fact, this was an internally driven review process, and one that the Museum did not undertake lightly.

Our content review and remediation approach for this update was developed in keeping with our legislative mandate, which is: “to explore the subject of human rights, with special but not exclusive reference to Canada, in order to enhance the public’s understanding of human rights, to promote respect for others, and to encourage reflection and dialogue.”

Our process began with a thorough review of credible sources. This included a review of the [Report of the Special Envoy to Myanmar](#), as well as an in-depth discussions with human rights groups working with Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Our process also looked at the visitor experience and sought to ensure we were engaging visitors in person and online on the question of how present-day action or inaction should influence our presentation of people’s previous human rights accomplishments.

Our work with the Rohingya community has been forward-looking and focused on raising awareness around human rights issues. We also continue to engage with visitors and stakeholders to ensure our approach is resulting in respectful discussion and dialogue on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Jodi Giesbrecht

--

Dr. Jodi Giesbrecht, MA, PhD  
Manager, Research and Curation | Gestionnaire, recherche et conservation  
Canadian Museum for Human Rights | Musée canadien pour les droits de la personne  
85 Israel Asper Way  
Winnipeg (Manitoba) R3C 0L5  
T. 1-204-289-2066  
F. 204.289.2001  
TTY | ATS: 204.289.2050  
Toll Free | Sans frais: 1.877.877.6037  
[jodi.giesbrecht@humanrights.ca](mailto:jodi.giesbrecht@humanrights.ca) | [jodi.giesbrecht@droitsdelapersonne.ca](mailto:jodi.giesbrecht@droitsdelapersonne.ca)

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**From:** s. 19  
**To:** [Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca](mailto:Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: Your inquiry to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights  
**Date:** March 13, 2018 11:16:13 PM

---

Dear Ms. Giesbrecht;

Thank you very much for your detailed and thoughtful response of March 10<sup>th</sup> to my query about Aung San Suu Kyi continuing honoured status within the CMHR in spite of her serious human rights failings regarding the Muslim Rohingya of Myanmar.

Although I accept there is insufficient time to allow you to engage in further dialog with each person who has an opinion on this matter, your response gave me much pause.

***“How do present-day actions influence how you feel about someone’s past Human Rights Achievements?”*** I think here are countless contemporary examples to draw upon when considering a fitting response. One example comes immediately to mind.

The scientist James Watson is recognized, along with Francis Crick, for discovering the structure of DNA, and for leading the Human Genome Project. In 1953 they revealed to the world the iconic double helix. In his later years, Mr. Watson was quite comfortable asserting ***“while people may like to think that all races are born with equal intelligence, those “who have to deal with black employees find this not true”***. As a result, Mr. Watson was shunned and, in his words, “left destitute”. [Reference: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/01/dna-james-watson-scientist-selling-nobel-prize-medal>]

Shouldn’t Suu Kyi be similarly shunned regardless of her past accomplishments? I believe that CMHR’s resistance to remove Suu Kyi from its honoured-persons exhibit fails to recognize the seriousness of her complete record.

In revoking their award to Suu Kyi, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum quoted Elie Wiesel. ***“Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.”*** This could also apply to CMHR’s response. Your neutral position is helping Suu Kyi maintain her tactic oppression of the Rohingya.

Again, thank you for your response to my initial query and for the opportunity to further reflect on the matter.

Yours truly,

s. 19 (1)  
[Redacted]

---

**From:** Jodi Giesbrecht <[Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca](mailto:Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 10, 2018 5:49 AM



To: s. 19 (1)

Subject: Your inquiry to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Dear s. 19 (1)

Thank you for your query about Aung San Suu Kyi. The violence perpetrated against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar has been well documented and has been condemned the world over. Many Canadians are critical of leader Suu Kyi for failing to condemn these targeted attacks and thousands are calling for her honorary Canadian citizenship to be revoked.

Over the last few months, the Museum has been engaging in a dialogue with Canadians about Myanmar, both online and in our gallery. This past September, the Museum shared a Facebook post explaining that Aung San Suu Kyi is one of six individuals recognized in an exhibit about honorary Canadian citizens, and asked “How do present-day actions influence how you feel about someone’s past human rights achievements?” Since then, the Museum has continued to encourage the discussion online.

In the gallery itself, the Museum has placed additional text alongside Suu Kyi’s image explaining the criticism of her failure to condemn the targeted attacks taking place against the Rohingya. The text then asks visitors how society should view previous rights achievements in the face of present-day violations. It also asks visitors to continue the conversation with staff in the Museum or on the Museum’s social media networks.

Part of the Museum’s mandate is to be a reliable resource for human rights education and a safe space for respectful reflection and dialogue on human rights issues. At present, Aung San Suu Kyi is still an honorary Canadian, and removing her image from the gallery will not change that fact – only hide it from public view. By presenting the facts about the human rights violations taking place in Myanmar, the Museum can allow visitors the opportunity to have important conversations and grapple with difficult questions about human rights. What happens when a former human rights defender commits human rights violations themselves? Does it change how we should view their past achievements? Should honorary citizenship be revoked in the light of present-day violations?

We appreciate your feedback and will continue to work, both inside and outside the Museum, to raise awareness and encourage dialogue about the violence against the Rohingya, as well as Aung San Suu Kyi’s role in that violence. You may be interested to know that we are working with members of the Rohingya community in a number of Canadian cities to determine what type of public programming may also be appropriate.

Best regards,  
Jodi Giesbrecht

--

Dr. Jodi Giesbrecht, MA, PhD

Manager, Research and Curation | Gestionnaire, recherche et conservation

Canadian Museum for Human Rights | Musée canadien pour les droits de la personne

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**From:** [Maureen Fitzhenry](#)  
**To:** [Rhea Yates](#); [Louise Waldman](#); [Clint Curle](#); [Andree Forest](#); [Lindsay Machalek](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Draft speaking points for review: Honorary citizenship Aung San Suu Kyi  
**Date:** September 13, 2017 8:57:49 PM

---

Meant to copy you others.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Maureen Fitzhenry <[Maureen.Fitzhenry@humanrights.ca](mailto:Maureen.Fitzhenry@humanrights.ca)>  
**Date:** September 13, 2017 at 8:54:40 PM CDT  
**To:** Rhea Yates <[Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca](mailto:Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca)>  
**Subject: Re: Draft speaking points for review: Honorary citizenship Aung San Suu Kyi**

I still worry that not enough is yet understood about her current actions (or lack thereof) and what's behind them. Should we be provoking this conversation right now?

If so, do we need a responsive point to answer why we're doing this and whether we're trying to influence Cdn govt policy?

The only other thing I wanted to say was that I'm not sure we should use emotive adjectives like 'appalling' instead of more museum-ish language.

Thanks for sharing these.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 13, 2017, at 7:26 PM, Rhea Yates <[Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca](mailto:Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca)> wrote:

Hello everyone,

I have drafted some speaking points intended for sharing with front-of-house leads. Please share any suggested edits by noon tomorrow, so that these can be shared in advance of tomorrow afternoon's Facebook post on the same theme. Please also share with anyone else who you think should review these. Thank you!

Rhea



---

**From:** Jodi Giesbrecht

**Sent:** June 22, 2018 2:13 PM

**To:** Rhea Yates <[Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca](mailto:Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca)>; Clint Curle <[Clint.Curle@humanrights.ca](mailto:Clint.Curle@humanrights.ca)>; Helen Delacretaz <[Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca](mailto:Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca)>; Angela Cassie <[Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca](mailto:Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca)>

**Cc:** Andree Forest <[Andree.Forest@humanrights.ca](mailto:Andree.Forest@humanrights.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Lollipop on Aung San Suu Kyi

Thanks for this Rhea, a few comments:

-we're a bit passive in saying the Rohingya are experiencing a humanitarian crisis. We could perhaps add something to the end of the next sentence, like "Hundreds of thousands have fled to escape the persecution and violence perpetrated by Myanmar's military."

-I wonder about saying "How should we view previous human rights achievements in the face of present-day violations", because with the lights dimmed, there is no content provided about ASSK's past achievements. Do we assume visitors will have this knowledge because of her inclusion in the Honorary Canadians exhibit?

-Also, with the lights dimmed, there's nothing about her becoming an honorary citizen. Could we say something like: "Many Canadians are critical of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to condemn these targeted attacks against the Rohingya. Suu Kyi was made an honorary Canadian citizen in 2007 and remains so. But we have dimmed the brightness of her image."

Thanks,  
Jodi

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**From:** Rhea Yates <[Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca](mailto:Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca)>

**Date:** Friday, June 22, 2018 at 12:14 PM

**To:** Clint Curle <[Clint.Curle@humanrights.ca](mailto:Clint.Curle@humanrights.ca)>, Jodi Giesbrecht <[Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca](mailto:Jodi.Giesbrecht@humanrights.ca)>, Helen Delacretaz <[Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca](mailto:Helen.Delacretaz@humanrights.ca)>, Angela Cassie <[Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca](mailto:Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca)>

**Cc:** Andree Forest <[Andree.Forest@humanrights.ca](mailto:Andree.Forest@humanrights.ca)>

**Subject:** Lollipop on Aung San Suu Kyi

Hi there,

As per Step 1 on the action items Helen noted today, here is the "paper" update to the lollipop sign in gallery that could be updated when the lights are adjusted in the digital book. If all is well, I will send to Karine for translation.

(A meeting is being called to finalize what points need to be captured in the digital version).

I am fond of one of the lines in this text, and if you like it too, I will tell you that it comes from Andrée.

Sincerely,  
Rhea

**From:** [Matthew McRae](#)  
**To:** [Angela Cassie](#)  
**Cc:** [Louise Waldman](#); [Andree Forest](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to John Young from Chairman of the Institute for Research of Genocide Canada  
**Date:** December 27, 2017 3:55:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Hello Angela,

Please see below for a first draft of a response to Dr. Ramic's letter. The first three paragraphs are based entirely on responsive points and the in-gallery text that was prepared. The fourth paragraph move slightly away from that, please feel free to discard it if you do not think it works.

I should also note that I have not addressed the timeline image of Aung San Suu Kyi, as I am not sure what, if any, plans the Museum has for that image.

Best,

Matthew

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Dear Dr. Ramic,

Thank you very much for your open letter about Aung San Suu Kyi and the situation in Myanmar. There is no doubt that terrible atrocities are taking place in Myanmar. The violence targeting the country's Muslim Rohingya minority is appalling. Many Canadians are critical of Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to condemn these targeted attacks against the Rohingya and thousands are calling for her honorary Canadian citizenship to be revoked.

Over the last few months, the Museum has been engaging in a dialogue with Canadians about Myanmar, both online and in our gallery. This past September, the Museum shared a facebook post explaining the situation and asking "How do present-day actions influence how you feel about someone's past human rights achievements?" Since then, the Museum has continued to encourage discussion online.

Meanwhile, in the Museum's galleries, Aung San Suu Kyi is featured as one of six individuals awarded honorary Canadian citizenship. The Museum has placed additional text alongside Aung San Suu Kyi's image explaining the criticism of Aung San Suu Kyi's failure to condemn the targeted attacks taking place against the Rohingya. The text then asks how visitors how society should view previous rights achievements in the face of present-day violations. It also asks visitors to continue the conversation online, on the Museum's social media networks.

Part of the Museum's mandate is to be a reliable resource for human rights education and a safe space for respectful reflection and dialogue on human rights issues. This means presenting the facts in a way that encourages discussion. At present, Aung San Suu Kyi is still an honorary Canadian, and removing her image from the gallery will not change that fact – only hide it from public view. By presenting the facts about the human rights violations taking place in Myanmar, the Museum can allow visitors the opportunity to have important conversations and grapple with difficult questions about human rights. What happens when a former human rights defender commits human rights violations themselves? Does it change how we should view their past achievements? Should honorary citizenship be revoked in the light of present-day violations?

We appreciate your letter and will continue to work, both inside and outside the Museum, to raise awareness and encourage dialogue about the violence against the Rohingya, as well as Aung San Suu Kyi's role in that violence.

Sincerely,

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**From:** Angela Cassie

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 2:54 PM

**To:** John Young

**Cc:** Lucille Lévy ; Matthew McRae ; Clint Curle ; Danielle Sala ; Andree Forest

**Subject:** Letter to John Young from Chairman of the Institute for Research of Genocide Canada

**Hi John, This letter has been posted online. We should respond using our responsive points.**

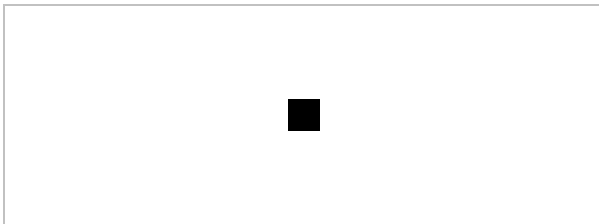
**Matthew, can I ask for your support? Thanks for flagging Lucille. Best, Angela**

The letter to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights regarding the current situation in

Myanmar

25/12/2017

Posted by [admin](#)



December 25, 2017.

Mr. Young, John

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR)

john.young [at] humanrights.ca

Dear Mr. Young, John

The current situation in Myanmar meets the criteria of Genocide. Aung San Suu Kyi, as State Counsellor has aided and abetted the Military government at every turn in their genocidal actions against the Rohingya. Legal scholars, genocide scholars and even practitioners of international law from Yale Law School and Queen Mary U Law, from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum to the Permanent People's Tribunal on Myanmar, have all called it genocide. In addition, please listen to the recent lecture by Genocide Scholar, Dr. Maung Zarni, at University of Toronto, Mississauga, hosted by Institute of Research of Genocide Canada and Amnesty International UTM here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyZ4kD8WCCA>

As a result of this ongoing genocide that has created the worst refugee disaster in the 21st century, it is only logical that Mrs. Kyi's photograph/poster be removed from your Museum as the intent it is to honour her and her achievements. Unfortunately, her racist and anti-Muslim position, which was previously shielded, and has only come

out to light now, makes her unsuitable for the vision and mission of the Museum, and day by day it casts darker clouds over the Museum's credibility, intentions and purpose.

No doubt, the context of all these pictures is to have a champions of human rights. However, as a 'thought experiment', imagine having a poster of Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot or Idi Amin, in the Museum, with glowing tributes? To say the least, that would not be just or conducive to the educational and inspirational aims of the Museum, and as justice seeking Canadians, we would find it abhorrent.

If the History of Myanmar is to be included, by all means it should, but it must expose the genocidal Myanmar regime for what it really is, up to the present day. In fact, the Museum can and should call this a genocide to educate the Canadians. That would mean restructuring the whole Myanmar display.

We look forward to hearing from you, as to your anticipated plan of action.

Dr. Emir Ramic  
Chairman of the Institute for Research of Genocide Canada

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**From:** Lucille Lévy

**Sent:** December 27, 2017 2:46 PM

**To:** Angela Cassie <[Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca](mailto:Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca)>

**Subject:** Social media monitoring

Hi Angela,

Just flagging 2 things as Rhea and Louise are away:

- [https://twitter.com/IGC\\_activism/status/945461693445894144](https://twitter.com/IGC_activism/status/945461693445894144)
- <https://www.facebook.com/leah.ross.1401/posts/10159775921100181> (sent to us as a private message by the person who wrote the post. She did not say anything in her private message).

**From:** [Angela Cassie](#)  
**To:** [Chandra Erlendson](#); [Louise Waldman](#); [Rhea Yates](#); [Mireille Lamontagne](#); [Lise Pinkos](#); [Andree Forest](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting notes: Rohingya exhibit brainstorming meeting  
**Date:** February 22, 2018 10:17:20 PM

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Hi, Thanks for sharing. Let's discuss. Best, Angela

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**From:** Chandra Erlendson  
**Sent:** February 22, 2018 3:19 PM  
**To:** Angela Cassie <[Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca](mailto:Angela.Cassie@humanrights.ca)>; Louise Waldman <[Louise.Waldman@humanrights.ca](mailto:Louise.Waldman@humanrights.ca)>; Rhea Yates <[Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca](mailto:Rhea.Yates@humanrights.ca)>; Mireille Lamontagne <[Mireille.Lamontagne@humanrights.ca](mailto:Mireille.Lamontagne@humanrights.ca)>; Lise Pinkos <[Lise.Pinkos@humanrights.ca](mailto:Lise.Pinkos@humanrights.ca)>; Andree Forest <[Andree.Forest@humanrights.ca](mailto:Andree.Forest@humanrights.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Meeting notes: Rohingya exhibit brainstorming meeting

Sharing FYI.

I asked Lindsay to attend the meeting in my absence. I am not sure if there were notes circulated already from Jodi or a delegate, but here are the notes that Lindsay provided me as a briefing.

RE: action listed for PP - I will be looking at the costs involved to bring in the photographer for a public program and would work with others to leverage this with other priorities, it., exhibit opening, media releases, member opps, etc. Other program opportunities in gallery, will be assessed in the coming weeks.

With respect,  
Chandra

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**From:** Lindsay Affleck  
**Sent:** February 21, 2018 6:30 PM  
**To:** Chandra Erlendson <[Chandra.Erlendson@humanrights.ca](mailto:Chandra.Erlendson@humanrights.ca)>  
**Subject:** Meeting notes: Rohingya exhibit brainstorming meeting

Hi Chandra,

Here are the meeting notes for the Rohingya Exhibit – Brainstorming meeting. We have an action which I have included in the action section at the end.

**Space:** Level 6 temporary gallery

**Timing:** Fall (likely November), 2018 / length of run – 1 year.

**Exhibit description:** Kevin Frayer Photography exhibit focusing on the forced migration of the Rohingya in Myanmar. The short timeframe will necessitate a streamlined exhibit design where textual content will be minimal. Minimal text panels (one or two contextual panels) and labels with date and locations of photos will be all the text there is in the physical exhibit. There will not be text panels for each photo – they will speak for themselves.



**Beyond the exhibit:** We will seek to enhance the content in the exhibit through programming, oral histories, digital and social media and the Museum App. These elements can be developed and staggered throughout the run of the show and do not necessarily need to be in place from the beginning.

**Budget:** The Exhibit budget is s. 21 (1) (c) [REDACTED]. Budget will primarily be spent on physical exhibit – framing, printing, walls, etc.

### **The Photography & The Photographer**

Photographer Kevin Frayer is an award winning photographer s. 20 (1) (c), s. 20 (1) (d) [REDACTED]. His work focuses on the forced migration of the Rohingya in Myanmar. This exhibit is being created by the CMHR – this body of work has never been shown elsewhere in a Museum context. We can consider this the first institutional venue to present this work.

s. 19 (1) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### **Curation and the Community**

Clint brought up concerns about not including the community in the development and suggested that we partner with the existing community panel that we have already been dealing with as they are well-organized, have gender balance, youth and Anglophone and Francophone members. This group is already established and in contact with us. If we exclude the community we may fail to address their concerns and we put the institution at some risk.

There were concerns about the fact that the timeline is so short that we may not be able to adequately consult and we would potentially make the community feel like they gave us their participation and we didn't include their voices.

A compromise was discussed whereby we don't seek their input on creating the text panels or things like that but do ask them to assist with image selection. Perhaps narrowing the photo list down to somewhere around 40 photos and then having them weigh in on what photos we end up including. We would have to do this through a facilitated phone call and drop box, or some such technological solution as we would have neither the time nor the money to bring the whole group to Winnipeg for a meeting. Everyone thought this would be acceptable and do-able. We have had strong phone calls with them before and it has worked well.

We could also involve the community in programming onsite and online. Perhaps we could have them speak to their experiences and why they chose the photos they did for the exhibit.

### **Programming**

Programming can have a large role in supporting and augmenting the exhibit experience. We talked about Lectures (possibly as part of the President's Lecture Series), community panels, film screenings and dialogue sessions. We talked about possibly bringing in the photographer (likely in relation to the launch event) and community members for talks or dialogue. We also talked about the possibility of in-gallery experiences like perhaps for community members to talk to the photos and their experiences on a one-time or ongoing schedule.

As above there was discussion about potentially having community members here for onsite programs but it needs to be considered that the community here is quite small and we would have to budget to bring some people in. It would be good to package things together and maximize travel costs between multiple events and/or meetings (oral histories, social media filming, event, in-gallery experiences etc.). It was floated that perhaps the launch could really focus on the community expressing themselves and their input in the photo selection instead of focusing the launch on the photographer.

It was also discussed that if we want to propose an in-gallery program we would need to do so soon as the development is happening on a compressed schedule. We don't have to have the whole thing fleshed out at this point but if we want space allocated for us in the exhibit we need to request it now. Anything we design would have to use existing furniture that has been used for previous exhibits. Rob mentioned quite a few pieces we could reuse, so we could get a list from him if that would be helpful.

Two people brought up a recent story of a Montessori school in Winnipeg that represented Canada on an International scale and chose the Rohingya crisis as their topic or cause. I looked for the article but couldn't find it. Angeliki heard the story so she might be able to point us in the right direction. We could develop a PP or EDU event that would include them.

There was some discussion of a space for a reflection wall like in the Witness Blanket exhibit, which we could repurpose at a low cost.

A handout could be created that includes programming for the run of the exhibit. We wouldn't have to have the whole slate of activities and events set from the beginning as we could create a handout that could be reprinted throughout the run at a low cost. This could mean we start with a few things and as events develop or opportunities arise, we will have the flexibility to update things.

### **Digital Media**

Digital will have to have a large role to add levels to this exhibit. We plan to do oral histories with those affected and would like to find a way to share those voices through digital platforms – be it blogs, videos, podcasts, in-gallery digital screens or through the Museum App. We could share first-person stories through various means both in-gallery and outside.

There is a desire to find out if we will be able to share any or all these images online and in Digital platforms. s. 20 (1) (c), s. 20 (1) (d)

. We know having the ability to share these beyond the exhibit will be essential and that is the goal.

There is a desire to create a multilayered and richer experience with in-gallery, website, App, social media and Programming. And we want to find ways to share collective memory.

Some interesting options were presented for digital including:

- Oral histories or videos developed specifically with social media sharing in mind

- There is a body of poetry being created by the community which could be layered in various ways including online, in-gallery digital media and the App. Ideas for this kind of emotive content was well received in the meeting. It shares the voices of the community in compelling and creative ways.
- Photo essays with community members speaking
- Digital screens and/or projection in-gallery could help update the content as this is a current and constantly evolving story. One option would be aggregate social media data that would have to be curated. Photos, news, Facebook, Twitter.

### **Calls to Action for Visitors**

Part of what we want from the digital platforms and programming is to address the calls to action for visitors. Once visitors witness these photographs, we expect they will want to know what they can do. We are looking for ways to answer that question of “what can I do?” Learning more can be a call to action. And that we think we can cover in a lot of ways. We should be thinking about all the ways we can help visitors participate and respond and how we can communicate that to them.

### **Partnerships**

Beyond the Rohingya community itself there may be opportunities to partner with the broader Muslim community but we should ensure that the main focus remains on the Rohingya specifically and their experiences.

There were many partnership possibilities that were discussed briefly but with the short timeframe we would need to determine where/if these groups could be involved. It could be in the calls to action rather than in the exhibit itself.

Some potential partners discussed included:

- s. 20 (1) (c), s. 20 (1) (d)
- UNHCR
- Amnesty
- Spielberg / Shoah Foundation

### **Traveling exhibit**

As we are developing this exhibit, we may be able to create a traveling version and travel it. We have had a lot of interest from Embassies, especially for projects they can do themselves without a large exhibit staff – stuff they can do themselves. There is a strong sense that this exhibit, with its simplicity and current content, is a good candidate for travel.

### **Challenges & Concerns**

- The budget is very low and the timeframe is very short. Exhibits does not have the money to bring in multiple stakeholders, community members or the photographer for multiple events. The hope is to be able to afford to bring the Kevin in once. We can bring him back or bring in others if we like, but it will need to come out of non-exhibit budgets.

- As the Rohingya community in Winnipeg is quite small, if we do plan to involve the community, we may have to consider the budget ramifications of bringing people in from other parts of Canada.
- It was brought up that we need to consider how or if we want to connect this content more specifically to the Aung San Suu Kyi content so that visitors will have this context when they proceed through the Museum and come across the ASSK content. There was concern that this could make it look like we were putting this exhibit on in response to the criticism but there was also a sense that it could be seen as acknowledging and furthering the context and conversation. It was also thought that the photos and the content in this photo exhibit are so strong that it will be evident to people that this exhibit was chosen for its strength on its own. By the end of the conversation it was clear that there was a desire to have some kind of recognition of the Aung San Suu Kyi representation in the Museum whether it be on the wall in the temp gallery and/or the places where ASSK content exists and/or in a handout of some kind.
- Armando noted that while the images are powerful, they cover only a partial picture of the situation faced by the Rohingya. It doesn't represent the full scope of their experience and what has led to the forced migration. It does not cover the violations and violence that they are fleeing (or the long history that has led to the current situation).
- s. 21 (1) (d) and thus Exhibits team will be spread thin.

#### **Next Steps / Actions (short term)**

- Jodi will share the meeting notes
- The options will be discussed at steering
- s. 20 (1) (c), s. 20 (1) (d)
- Chandra to provide response about whether or not a programming space in-gallery is desired with as much detail that is possible at this time.

#### **Lindsay Affleck**

Senior Content Coordinator | Coordonnatrice principale du contenu

**Canadian Museum for Human Rights | Musée canadien pour les droits de la personne**

85 Israel Asper Way

Winnipeg (Manitoba) R3C 0L5

T: 204.289.2243

F: 204.289.2001

**From:** Raees S. 19 (1)  
**Sent:** February-02-18 10:11 AM  
**To:** Clint Curle  
**Cc:** Angela Cassie; Chandra Erlendson  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting with the Canadian Human Rights Museum

Good morning Sir,

I have confirmation for Thursday Feb 8 from Vancouver, Saskatoon, Ottawa, and Kitchener. I am still waiting confirmation from Quebec City where there is a small diaspora of Rohingya refugees. I suggest that we set Feb 8 as the meeting date since most people are ok with it.

Kind regards,  
Raees.

2018-01-29 15:19 GMT-05:00 Clint Curle <[Clint.Curle@humanrights.ca](mailto:Clint.Curle@humanrights.ca)>:  
Dear Raees:

Some alternative dates (Winnipeg time):

- Thursday 08 Feb, 3:30-4:30 pm
- Friday 09 Feb, 12:30-1:30 pm
- Friday 16 Feb, 10:00-11:00 am

Kind regards,  
Clint

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Clint Curle, LLB, PhD  
Senior Advisor to the President, Stakeholder Relations | Conseiller principal auprès du président,  
Relations avec les intervenants  
Canadian Museum for Human Rights | Musée canadien pour les droits de la personne  
[85 Israel Asper Way](#)  
[Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0L5](#)  
T: [204-289-2162](tel:204-289-2162)  
F: [204-289-2001](tel:204-289-2001)  
TTY: [204-289-2050](tel:204-289-2050)  
Toll Free | Sans frais: [1-877-877-6037](tel:1-877-877-6037)  
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[www.humanrights.ca](http://www.humanrights.ca) | [www.droitsdelapersonne.ca](http://www.droitsdelapersonne.ca)

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## CMHR CONCEPT BRIEF

<b>Project:</b>	<b>Rohingya Photographic Exhibit</b>
<b>Submission Date:</b>	<b>March 2018</b>
<b>Curator:</b>	<b>Armando Perla</b>
<b>Project Live Date:</b>	<b>Fall 2018</b>
<b>Approximate Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 21 (4) (e)</b>
<b>Internal approval process:</b>	
<b>External reviews:</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Approval to Proceed:</b>	<b>Steering</b>

[Link to Strategic Plan](#)

### Primary

### Objective

The primary objective of this exhibit is to address community concerns about the representation of the Rohingya in the CMHR regarding the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. The idea is to present an exhibition that will allow the CMHR to delve into the current crisis using the work of award winning photographer Kevin Frayer. There is also the possibility to complement the exhibit with unique photographs taken by the Rohingya community in Myanmar and in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. The photographs taken inside of Myanmar are extremely rare and it would give the CMHR a unique opportunity to present this material in Canada. The approach and selection of the photographs will be developed in consultation with members of the Rohingya community in Canada. Potential topics for the exhibit are as follows (note that story selection is very preliminary at this stage; research and assessment of available assets has not yet been conducted and it will have to be further develop in consultation with the community):

- **Life Before the Attacks:** The Rohingya are an ethnic group, the majority of whom are Muslim, who have lived for centuries in the majority Buddhist Myanmar. There were an estimated 1 million Rohingya living in Myanmar before the 2016–17 crisis. The word Rohingya means "inhabitant of Rohang", which was the early Muslim name for Arakan. The military junta changed the name of Arakan to Rakhine State. The community would like people to know who they are, their culture, traditions, music, art, etc. They want people to know that they built the villages in Rakhine State and that once they also were part of the government. The feel that if the visitor knows who they are as a people, it will be harder to dehumanize them and categorize only as victims. This could be done through a series of different means, we could use historical photographs, photographs taken by members of the community before the attacks or by including some of the important symbols and cultural and art manifestations into the design and on the walls.

## CMHR CONCEPT BRIEF

- **Humanitarian Crisis/Ethnic Cleansing/Genocide?:** The Rohingya persecution goes back to 1948, when the Rohingya asked for an independent state following Myanmar's independence from British rule. The Myanmar government forces have carried out armed attacks and burned down entire Rohingya villages. In addition, they beheaded men, raped women and murdered children. Tens of thousands of Rohingya have become internally displaced in Myanmar. Photographs taken by the community inside of Myanmar could be used to populate this part of the exhibit whether in the physical exhibit or as part of a complementary online exhibition.
- **Forced Migration/Journey:** Hundreds of thousands Rohingya have also risked their lives making the dangerous journey out of Myanmar and into countries like Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand. Kevin Frayer's photographs are a testament to their journey. The community finds his images very powerful, but they feel that they only tell one side of their story. They also feel that the photographs focus only on the victimhood aspect of who they are. They feel that it is important to show these images and that people need to see them, but they do not want these images to be the only thing people are going to see on an exhibit about the Rohingya.
- **Community Resilience in the Face of Uncertainty:** The Myanmar government denies any wrongdoing. Despite the global outcry, Myanmar's de facto leader, Nobel laureate and honorary Canadian, Aung San Suu Kyi has not acknowledged the plight of the Rohingya and their future remains uncertain. The community fears the repatriation of the people currently living in the refugee camps in Bangladesh back to Myanmar. The community's desire is to show the resilience and humanity of the Rohingya people in the refugee camps, particularly through the images of their women and children. Photographs taken by the Rohingya community (in the physical exhibit or complementary online exhibition) and by Kevin Frayer in the refugee camps could be used to populate this section.

### Secondary Objective

The secondary objective of this exhibit is to strengthen the Museum's relationship with the Rohingya community and to give them a space where their voices can be heard. To do this, the CMHR, in collaboration with a committee made up of members of the Rohingya community, will co-curate the selection of images to be presented in the exhibit. At the same time, the CMHR will ask the members of the committee to document the reason/story behind their choice for selecting each of the images. The purpose of documenting these stories would be for the members of the committee to share them with the public during the opening of the exhibit and during other related programming opportunities.

### Needs and Opportunities

- Need to give the Rohingya community a platform to tell their own story.
- Need to present an accurate portrayal of the Rohingya community.
- Opportunity to connect with other institutions and organizations in Canada and abroad that are working on the documentation of the Rohingya humanitarian crisis such as UNHCR, Amnesty International, The Shoah Foundation, The Montreal Holocaust Museum, etc.

## CMHR CONCEPT BRIEF

- Opportunity to address criticism of the CMHR regarding the representation of Aung Sun Suu Kyi in its galleries.
- Opportunity to later expand and complement the exhibit through an online component using images and oral histories captured by the Rohingya community in Bangladesh. There are approximately 85 interviews that were conducted with people from 15 villages within 3 different townships of Myanmar (subject to copyright negotiations with the Shoah Foundation who are the rights holders of these assets)
- Opportunity for the CMHR to create its own oral histories with the Rohingya diaspora community in Canada and develop an oral history project (there are approx. 4 families in Winnipeg, 3 families in Toronto, 10 families in Vancouver, 15 – 20 families in Quebec City and 20 families in Kitchener)

### Limitations/Constraints/Risks

- Depending on how the exhibit is developed, there is a risk of putting the spotlight on the photographer instead of on the community. s. 21 (1) (a)
- There is a risk of alienating the community if they feel that their voices and input haven't been heard and considered. The community has stressed many times that they would like to see photographs taken by themselves, if the exhibit is to go ahead. Something they have stressed is the fact that they do not want to be presented solely as victims. They want to be presented as wholesome human beings
- Scheduling constraints. The timeframe to develop this exhibit is quite short so we must be careful about managing expectations from stakeholders and from within the CMHR.
- The budget is also quite limited so there is a need for us to find creative and inexpensive ways of storytelling that can be used to complement the photographs. For example, instead of only using white walls, we can ask the community which colours are significant to them and why, so we can implement them into the design. We can also consult with the community which symbols represent them, so they can also be incorporated into the design, like how the colour purple and the Ixil triangle (diamond shape) were used in the Weaving A Better Future exhibit. Some of the symbols that the community has already provided are: fish boats (used to earn a living before the attacks and then to seek asylum in neighbouring countries), fish nets, the colourful and bright designs on their traditional garments, musical instruments, the lace used on women's veil, the Arakan mountains. The gallery doesn't have to be silent, so we can also ask the community for a selection of songs that have been composed in the refugee camps to express the many heartbreaking stories coming from the crisis. The use of poetry and some of the drawings created in the refugee camps by the Rohingya could also be incorporated in a subtle way into the design. The community has also suggested the use of wedding songs.

### Target Audience(s)

- In-person visitors (general public) as well as online audiences with a general interest in the Rohingya humanitarian crisis, genocide studies, genocide education, representation of people of colour, photography, photojournalism, refugee rights, forced migrants, etc.
- Mostly adult and young adult audiences



## CMHR CONCEPT BRIEF

- Human rights activists, refugee activists, people of colour, the Rohingya community in Canada and other diasporas communities, scholars and others with a particular interest in the topics presented in the exhibit.

### **Project Collaborators (internal)**

- Exhibitions, Research & Design
- IT
- Visitor Experience & Engagement
- Public Affairs & Programs
- Stakeholder Relations

### **Project Collaborators (potential external)**

- The Rohingya community in Canada
- The Shoah Foundation
- Amnesty International
- UNHCR
- The Montreal Holocaust Museum
- The Holocaust Museum in D.C.
- The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

### **Links to Metanarrative and Human Rights Themes**

#### **Accessibility Considerations**

This exhibit will conform to the CMHR's inclusive design and accessibility standards.

#### **Official Languages Considerations**

This exhibit will conform to the CMHR's adherence to official languages.

#### **Budget**

#### **Evaluation**

TBD

#### **Additional Notes**

##### Logistics

TBD

##### Approvals

TBD

## CMHR CONCEPT BRIEF

<b>Project:</b>	<b>Rohingya Photographic Exhibit</b>
<b>Submission Date:</b>	<b>March 2018</b>
<b>Curator:</b>	<b>Armando Perla</b>
<b>Project Live Date:</b>	<b>Fall 2018</b>
<b>Approximate Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 21 (4) (2)</b>
<b>Internal approval process:</b>	
<b>External reviews:</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Approval to Proceed:</b>	<b>Steering</b>

[Link to Strategic Plan](#)

### Primary Objective

The primary objective of this exhibition is to use the work of the award-winning Canadian photographer, Kevin Frayer, to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, encouraging reflection and dialogue on important contemporary human rights issues. The approach and selection of the photographs will be developed in consultation with members of the Rohingya community in Canada.

There is also possibility to complement the physical exhibition with online content and/or programming content that uses unique photographs taken by the Rohingya community in Myanmar and in the refugee camps in Bangladesh. The photographs taken inside of Myanmar are extremely rare and it would give the CMHR a unique opportunity to present this material in Canada. The exhibition is rich in material to support programming, and as such, information linking visitors to information resources, Museum events and programs, and offerings in boutique and Reference Centre will be integrated in the exhibition layout.

One or two 3D tactile image are being explored to provide additional levels of accessibility for our audience.

### Secondary Objective

The secondary objective of this exhibition is to strengthen the Museum's relationships with key stakeholder and community groups, most notably the Rohingya community across Canada.

### Needs and Opportunities

- Need to give the Rohingya community a means for their voices to be heard.

## CMHR CONCEPT BRIEF

- Opportunity to connect with other institutions and organizations in Canada and abroad that are working on the documentation of the Rohingya humanitarian crisis such as UNHCR, Amnesty International, The Shoah Foundation, The Montreal Holocaust Museum, Doctors Without Borders, etc.
- Opportunity to address issues regarding the representation of Aung Sun Suu Kyi in the CMHR's core galleries.
- Opportunity to later expand and complement the exhibition through an online component using images and oral histories captured by the Rohingya community in Bangladesh.
- Opportunity for the CMHR to conduct its own oral histories with the Rohingya diaspora community in Canada (budget and resource dependent).

### **Limitations/Constraints/Risks**

- Depending on how the exhibition is developed, there is a risk of putting the spotlight on the photographer instead of on the community.
- There is a risk of alienating the community if they feel that their voices and input haven't been heard and considered.  
Scheduling constraints. The timeframe to develop this exhibition is quite short so we must be careful about managing expectations from stakeholders and from within the CMHR.
- The budget is also quite limited so there is a need for us to find creative and inexpensive ways of storytelling that can be used to complement the photographs.

### **Target Audience(s)**

- In-person visitors (general public) as well as online audiences with a general interest in the Rohingya humanitarian crisis, genocide studies, genocide education, representation of people of colour, photography, photojournalism, refugee rights, forced migrants, diaspora communities, scholars, human rights activists etc.
- Mostly adult and young adult audiences

### **Project Collaborators (internal)**

- Exhibitions, Research & Design
- IT
- Visitor Experience & Engagement
- Public Affairs & Programs
- Stakeholder Relations

### **Project Collaborators (potential external TBD)**

- The Rohingya community in Canada
- The Shoah Foundation
- Amnesty International
- UNHCR
- The Montreal Holocaust Museum
- The Holocaust Museum in D.C.
- The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

## **Links to Metanarrative and Human Rights Themes**

### *Inspiring human rights reflection and dialogue*

The exhibition will further human rights reflection and dialogue by focusing on a very current and timely issue—the crisis currently facing the Rohingya in Myanmar. Making use of powerful photography, the exhibition will encourage the public to engage in meaningful dialogue about the protection and violation of rights and freedoms. It could also potentially serve as a platform for broader conversations through programming or web content.

### *Celebrating Canadians' commitments to human rights*

The exhibition will showcase the work of award-winning Canadian photographer Kevin Frayer. The CMHR will also work with representatives of the Rohingya-Canadian community to select the final number of photographs. The exhibition will provide a means to examine the work of the Canadian Rohingya community in bringing to light the human rights crisis taking place in Burma, thus emphasizing the role of diaspora communities in promoting human rights.

### *Dynamic and accessible human rights content*

The exhibition will use several content delivery mechanisms. In addition to the photographs, poetry and related audiovisual material is being considered. One to two tactile images are also being pursued. Examining the Rohingya crisis across multiple platforms will allow the CMHR to reach diverse audiences of differing abilities, creating multiple access points into the content.

### *A credible and balanced learning resource*

In developing the exhibition, the CMHR will engage with community members, experts, and other stakeholders to ensure content presented is balanced, accurate, and an authentic representation of multiple perspectives and points of view on the subject matter.

## **Accessibility Considerations**

This exhibit will conform to the CMHR's inclusive design and accessibility standards.

## **Official Languages Considerations**

This exhibit will conform to the CMHR's adherence to official languages.

## **Budget**

s. 21  
(1)

## **Evaluation**

# CMHR CONCEPT BRIEF

TBD

## **Additional Notes**

Logistics

TBD

Approvals

TBD

## Rohingya Brainstorming Meeting

Helen – Overview:

- L6 gallery after Rights of Passage; proposed 4 different exhibitions, this one well received by Steering
- Had to slot into fall 2018 to stagger with LTW etc.
- Don't have a lot of resources in terms of budget s. 21 human resources, schedule
- Kevin Frayer- photographer (is Canadian, ties to Winnipeg)
- s. 21 (1) panel overview, one panel on photographer, 20-25 photos with title and date; printing, framing, use existing DIRT walls
- Body of work not shown previously but Frayer has been fielding a number of inquiries; potential to travel the show through CMHR travelling program after presentation here
  - well suited to the type of exhibition the Canadian Embassy/Global Affairs arm has shown interest in (shows we can provide electronically for them to produce negating need to physically ship items and thus keeping costs more modest)
- Addresses situation with ASSK in gallery, criticism received
- very tight timeline: 6 months to execute
- Possibilities to augment through digital, public programs etc.

Clint: is photographer open to working with community advisory committee?

Helen: not sure if we have time; also raised that we only have one panel as an overview of the exhibition and want to ensure we don't raise community expectations as to integrating their perspectives into the exhibition

Louise: we are vulnerable on this issue, from PR perspective need to mitigate – would be seen as us trying to address ASSK criticism

Rhea: wondering if we could reproduce honorary Canadian thing in the L6 gallery with these photos, in TPH still seeing lollipop sign, could we bring L6 together with honorary Canadians

Armando: engagement with community to select images

Helen: don't know how many images there are – could provide a sub-set of images, ie) curator and photographer make initial selection; community makes final selection

Armando: images are great- Frayer was first on the ground to document the crisis, speaks to what the international community has done but missing POV from community, focuses only on the journey of the Rohingya – doesn't talk about issues behind this, war, rape etc. issues that were raised from the community to listen what has happened. They want to talk about all of that. Or could bring community members here for launch.

**Steering Committee**

Agenda Item Title	Date of meeting	Minutes related to item
Current Affairs	2017-10-02	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Kudos provided on the social media approach to discussing Aung San Suu Kyi. Further discussion on how the Museum should approach current topics should continue.</p>
Aung San Suu Kyi Content in Gallery	2017-12-09	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Lollipop stands have been well received by staff and visitors. Suggestion to edit the text to encourage discussion with staff in gallery as well as online, though staff are engaging with visitors who stop to read the text. See this as an opportunity for deeper dialogue with visitors rather than a defence of the content.</p> <p>Note that there is an event planned likely in January, general agreement that the signage should remain at least until then. Consider a more seamless integration of the message in gallery by looking at other options.</p> <p>The negative feedback received from the community is in reaction to her level of prominence as a hero in the galleries, in contrast to the lack of content on the Rohingya.</p>
Rohingya Brainstorm	2018-03-13	<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>Motion to proceed with Rohingya Photography exhibition in the Expressions Gallery in fall 2018. Chandra/Helen. Approved.</p> <p><b>Task:</b></p> <p>Add to Steering agenda in April.</p>
Internal Content Review	2018-04-17	<p>Jodi provides overview of Committee's recommendations.</p> <p><b>Timeline:</b></p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <p>Motion to support the Content Review Committee's recommended remediation to Aung San Suu Kyi's image in the timeline in What are Human Rights. Mireille/Clint. Approved.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Consider updating the timeline during remediation with some contemporary figures past 2014.</p>

<p>Committee Report re: Aung San Suu Kyi</p>	<p>2018-04-17</p>	<p><b>Honourary Canadians:</b></p> <p><b>Decision</b></p> <p>Motion to support the Content Review Committee's recommended remediation to Aung San Suu Kyi's image in the Honorary Canadians exhibit in Turning Points for Humanity. Helen/Jennefer. Approved.</p> <p><b>Task</b></p> <p>Identify whether it is possible to dim/cover/remove the lightbulb that illuminates ASSK's image in the interim before a final solution is implemented for Honorary Canadians exhibit.</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> lightbulb can be dimmed. Trial run on May 14 2018.</p>
<p>Business Arising</p>	<p>2018-05-17</p>	<p><b>Aung San Suu Kyi</b></p> <p>Dyptich can be easily dimmed. Steering will recommend making this change now.</p> <p><b>Tasks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helen to check-in about resources for ipad lollipop stand to replace existing stand.</li> <li>- Update Alain's team on this change through meetings and Yammer.</li> <li>- Rhea to update text on lollipop stand in L4 to reflect dimming of the light.</li> <li>- Share webtext with Clint and Jodi.</li> <li>- With all steps above, determine timeline for when the light will be dimmed. Goal: within two weeks.</li> </ul>
		<p>Rhea provides context and overview of draft text.</p> <p>Committee suggestions:</p> <p>Provide other options for visitors as their call to action: direct to other resources (and provide fuller context to Bob Rae's report), dialogue with in-gallery staff, expand references to other texts, consider using the word "minimize," "have faced increasing targeted violence" rather than refer to a year.</p>



<p><b>Aung San Suu Kyi In-Gallery Text Change</b></p>	<p>2018-05-31</p>	<p><b>Long-term remediation</b>  Consider purchase of a lollipop stand with iPad to link to more information. Lollipop stand cost shared by Helen.  Phase 1:  - Dim light and update text on lollipop stand   Phase 2:  - Develop approach and technical necessities of an iPad as replacement for lollipop sign.   <b>Task</b>  Rhea to edit text and send to Jodi for editing.   Jacques to explore whether there is value in getting multiple iPad stands for Events and other purposes.</p>
<p><b>ASSK Recommendations</b></p>	<p>2018-06-14</p>	<p><b>Update</b>  Approval at Executive for high level approach to remediation as per the Internal Content Review Committee's proposal. In terms of the long-term change to the Timeline on L2, it is recommended that we extend the interim solution and look at a more substantial refresh of the Timeline during maintenance week in January 2020.   <b>Task</b>  Carry on with remediation as recommended by Content Review Committee.   Initiate a process to review and refresh the Timeline.</p>
<p><b>ASSK Remediation</b></p>	<p>2018-07-12</p>	<p>Letter to Rohingya community about remediation is drafted and almost ready to be sent.</p>

# ROHINGYA

The primary objective of this project is to develop an original temporary and traveling exhibit that will give the Rohingya community a platform to tell their own story at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR). The idea is to present an exhibit that will allow the community to delve into the current crisis using the work of award winning photographer Kevin Frayer. The exhibit will be co-curated between the CMHR and the Rohingya community and it will be complemented by original photographs taken by the community in Burma and in Bangladesh<sup>1</sup>.

As the CMHR's curator for the exhibit, my role is to ensure the proper development of the project. An important part of this work includes facilitating communications between the community and the different CMHR's departments involved and between the community and Kevin Frayer. In collaboration with the community, we will be conducting a series of oral histories to be included in the exhibit. The development of the curatorial approach for the exhibit and the curatorial selection of Kevin's photographs will also be a shared responsibility.

I will be working directly with a curatorial committee composed of four members (2 men and 2 women) of the Rohingya community across Canada. The community's objectives are:

- To raise awareness of the current humanitarian crisis
- To represent the Rohingya people as wholesome human beings and not only as victims
- To call visitors to action

The topics to be explored in the exhibit are as follows:

- **Life Before the Attacks:** The Rohingya are an ethnic group, the majority of whom are Muslim. They have lived for centuries in the majority Buddhist Burma. There were an estimated 1 million Rohingya living in Burma before the 2016–17 crisis. The word Rohingya means "inhabitant of Rohang", which was the early Muslim name for Arakan. The military junta changed the name of Arakan to Rakhine State.

The community would like visitors to learn about who they are, their culture, traditions, music, art, etc. They feel that if the visitor knows who they are as a people, it will be harder to dehumanize them and categorize them only as victims.

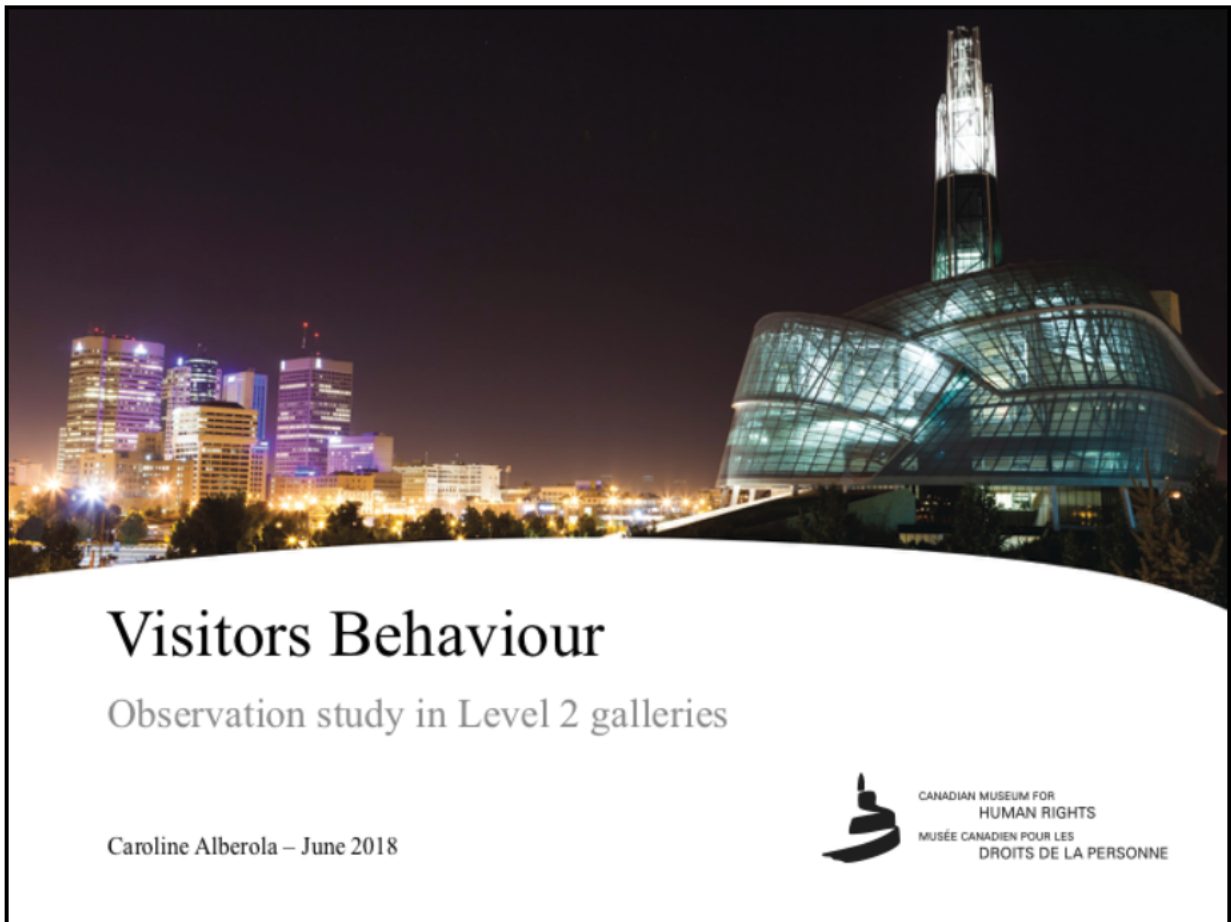
This can be accomplished through different means; we will use photographs taken by members of the community to be added to the exhibit. Several photographs taken by members of the community have already been provided to me. The community has already given us direction on important symbols, cultural and artistic manifestations that we will incorporate into the design of the exhibit. I have also been able to facilitate direct communication between our head designer and the curatorial community so the design is also guided by the community's needs.

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<sup>1</sup> The photographs taken inside of Myanmar are extremely rare and they represent a unique opportunity to present this material in Canada and where the exhibit might travel after.

- **Humanitarian Crisis:** The Rohingya persecution goes back to 1948, when the Rohingya asked for an independent state following Burma's independence from British rule. The Burmese government forces have carried out armed attacks and burned down entire Rohingya villages. In addition, they beheaded men, raped women and murdered children. Tens of thousands of Rohingya have become internally displaced in Burma. The disproportionate state brutality was prompted by two attacks the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on security outposts. This information will be contextualized using text panels. Additionally, photographs taken by the community might be used to populate this part of the exhibit.
  
- **Forced Migration/Journey:** Hundreds of thousands Rohingya have risked their lives making the dangerous journey out of Burma and into countries like Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand. Kevin Frayer's photographs are a testament to their journey. The community finds his images very powerful, but they also want to add additional layers to be able to tell a more nuanced story. I have been able to facilitate direct communication between the community and Kevin, who is planning to go back to the camps at the end of June. Even though, he will be there on a different assignment, we are hoping he might be able to capture some new images based on his conversations with the community.
  
- **Community Resilience:** The Burmese government denies any wrongdoing. Despite the global outcry, Burma's de facto leader, Nobel laureate and honorary Canadian, Aung San Suu Kyi has not acknowledged the plight of the Rohingya and their future remains uncertain. The community fears the repatriation of the people currently living in the refugee camps in Bangladesh back to Burma. The community wants to show the resilience and humanity of the Rohingya people in the refugee camps, particularly through the images of their women and children. Photographs taken by the Rohingya community and by Kevin Frayer could be used to populate this section. The community would like the visitor to understand that the people in the refugee camps are resilient and continue to fight to keep their dignity and hope for the future.

It is expected that this exhibit will raise awareness about the current humanitarian crisis while still respecting the dignity of the victims and survivors. It is also intended that this collaboration will further strengthen the CMHR's relationship with the Rohingya community by giving them a space where their voices can be heard. As part of the work, the curatorial committee and I are embarking on a major oral history project across the country to document the stories of the Rohingya people in Canada, so that these can be included into Canada's national collection. Additionally, we will develop a film based on these oral histories that we will include in the exhibit. The film will focus on the Rohingya story as well as the curatorial committee's experiences co-curating the exhibit. A great partner in this project has been UNHCR, who has facilitated meetings with the Rohingya community across the country and who will also review the exhibit content to ensure its accuracy. The exhibit is set to open in the spring/summer of 2019.



**Project: Visitors' behaviour observation in the core galleries.**

**Objective:** To understand visitors behaviour on level 2.

**Protocol:** Observation of visitors behaviour in level 2 galleries. Visitors are randomly selected. The timer starts when a visitor enters the gallery and ends when they leave. Each stop is recorded and timed, as well as the level of engagement with the interactives (4-points scale with 0=no engagement, 1=Stop/Look, 2=Touch once and leave, 3=Explore/play), and social interactions.

**Sample:** 50 visitors per gallery

**Galleries:** What are Human Rights, Indigenous Perspectives, Canadian Journeys.

**Material:** Pen, printed gallery map with form (one per visitor observed), timer. Data compiled and treated in Excel.

**Period of observation:** May-June 2018, weekdays before 4 PM

# TODAY, WE WILL TALK ABOUT

## Visitors' behaviour on level 2 galleries

What are Human Rights, Indigenous Perspectives, Canadian Journeys

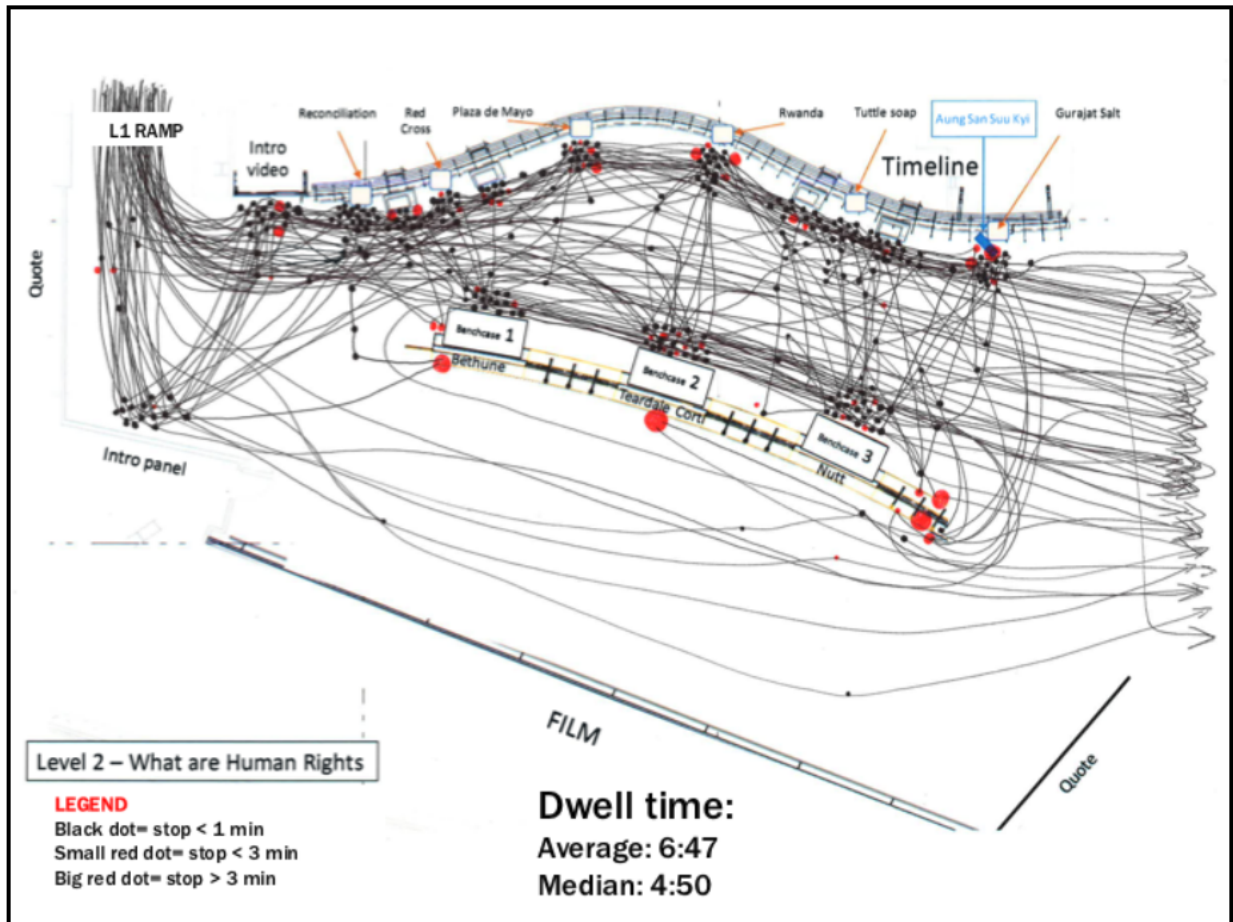
- What do our visitors do when they visit the Museum?
- What gets their interest?
- How do they consume our content?
- How long do they stay in the galleries?



CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
MUSÉE CANADIEN POUR LES  
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

**This presentation will provide answers to the following questions:**

- What do our visitors do when they visit the level 2?
- What gets their interest?
- How do they use the space?
- How do they consume our content?
- How long do they stay in the galleries?



**This is our visitors flow in What are Human Rights gallery.**

- Most of visitors do not use the benches or the space bellow.
- Timeline: they tend to stay longer by artefact cases, especially the one about the Rwanda genocide, and the Aung San Suu Kyi signage.

**LEGEND**

- Black dot= stop < 1 min
  - Small red dot= stop < 3 min
  - Big red dot= stop > 3 min
- Sample: 51 visitors

**Which exhibition content gets the highest percentage of visitors who stop?**

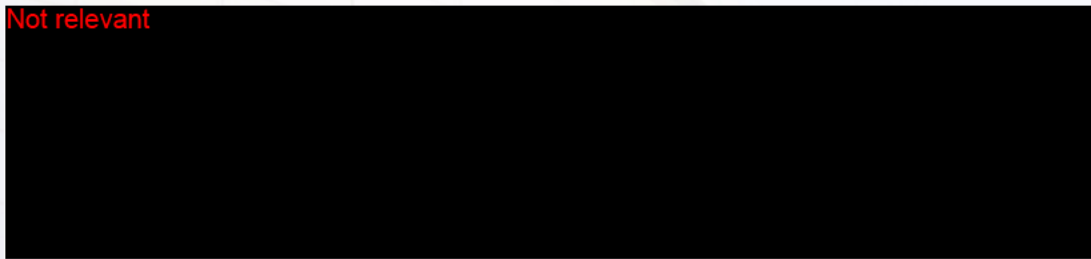
## LEVEL 2: TAKE AWAYS

Not relevant



- Stand alone text panels get more attention from visitors (Aung San Suu Kyi sign, Viola Desmond \$10 bill).

Not relevant



CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
MUSÉE CANADIEN POUR LES  
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE

Not relevant



The Aung San Suu Kyi sign increases the stop's dwell time.

Not relevant



## Rohingya Refugee Crisis – Prospectus v1.0

2018-08-08/JG/AP

### Background

The Rohingya are an ethnic minority, most of whom are Muslim, ~~Muslim minority community~~ with deep roots in the Arakan region (Rakhine State) of Burma (Myanmar) where they have lived for hundreds of years. Numbering approximately one million in 2017, the Rohingya maintain a distinct language, religion and culture in a majority Buddhist country. Following the independence of Burma from British rule in 1948, the Rohingya were included in the social and political life of the country. However, they have faced increasing persecution from Myanmar's government, including having their citizenship stripped and being denied recognition as a people. Instead, the government claims they are illegal immigrants. The persecution of the Rohingya isn't something new. Some argue that it can be traced back to the expulsion of the original inhabitants of Arakan after it was conquered by the Burmese in 1785. However, during Burma's British colonial period the Rohingya enjoyed a relatively peaceful existence in exchange for their support for the colonial structure. In 1942, with the Japanese occupation of Burma and the British retreat, violence between Arakan's local Muslim and Buddhist communities erupted. The Rohingya were victims of violent attacks and massacres. Thousands are believed to have fled Burma during this time and the persecution and exodus continued for decades. In 1982 the new Citizenship Law officially stripped the Rohingya of their citizenship. In the early 1990s, Rohingyas continued to flee increasing religious persecution, forced labour, violence, rape and massacres. It was during this time that they started to arrive in Cox's Bazar where they were assisted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Commented [AP1]: I replaced this part just to give it a little more context but I am ok with keeping it as you initially had it if you feel it has made the document too long.

Violence escalated following incidents in October 2016 and August 2017 when a small group of rebels known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked a series of police bases in Rakhine State. The Myanmar military disproportionately responded by attacking, burning villages, raping, killing, and displacing large numbers of Rohingya, mostly civilians. Nearly It is estimated that over 9700,000 refugees fled for neighbouring Bangladesh, where many continue to live in dangerous and precarious camps with little access to humanitarian aid and assistance. Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has defended the actions of Myanmar's military and failed to take any actions to stop the violence. Although the civilian wing of the Government of Myanmar has claimed it will bring peace and stability to the region, the crisis remains ongoing and the evidence is clear that Myanmar's military has committed crimes against humanity in its persecution of Rohingya.

In Canada, Rohingya refugees started arriving at the end of the 1990s and began to settle in Kitchener, ON. Today there is a Rohingya community across the country with families in Quebec City, Surrey, Winnipeg and Kitchener. With around 35 – 40 families, Kitchener has the largest Rohingya population in the country.



The refugee camps in southeastern Bangladesh, where most Rohingya refugees currently reside, are the largest in the world. The ongoing atrocities and humanitarian crisis demand the attention and aid of countries around the world, including Canada. In the short term, there is dire need for better living conditions, medical care, education, food and other necessities of life for refugees living in camps. In the longer term, international diplomacy is required to end the crisis and ensure Rohingya can return home safely, with their rights and freedoms protected.

### **Exhibition and Content Approach**

The Rohingya refugee crisis exhibition will be located in CMHR's Level 6 Expressions gallery, opening in June 2019.

The exhibition will include the photographs of award-winning Getty photographer Kevin Frayer, whose powerful work documents the plight of Rohingya refugees during their flight from Myanmar and life in the camps in Bangladesh, in an effort to expose the ongoing atrocities and humanitarian crisis facing Rohingya. Frayer's photographs examine a range of themes, including displacement, death, forced migration, religion, women and children, identity, and belonging.

The final selection of approximately twenty images will be made in close collaboration and dialogue with a curatorial committee made up of members from the Rohingya community who live across Canada. We would like to document the community's reasons for selecting their photos, to be shared in-gallery, online, and/or through programming. Two photographs will be made tactile, similar to the tactile images created for the *Sight Unseen* and *Points of View* exhibitions.

In addition to the photographs of Kevin Frayer, the exhibition will also feature a section of photographs taken by Rohingya community members that similarly-not only document the humanitarian and refugee crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh but also community life in Canada as well as oral history clips and a small number of artifacts such as identity cards. These works will emphasize the humanity of the Rohingya as a distinct people with their own identity and way of life, and their resilience in the face of Myanmar's effort to dehumanize, displace, and eradicate them as a people. They will represent the current humanitarian crisis and the formation of a diaspora community through their own eyes of the community and therefore ensure the exhibition shares a diversity of stories and perspectives.

There is potential to incorporate aspects of Rohingya cultural and religious symbols throughout the design of the exhibition, as well as audiovisual elements such as spoken poetry or music to further convey the traditions, history, and past and present ways of life of the Rohingya.

Finally, we are also planning to include information and material on how visitors can take action on this issue.

In sum, the exhibition elements will include:

- Intro text panel: the Rohingya people, ethnic cleansing, forced migration
- Short bio text panel: Kevin Frayer's statement
- Approximately 20 photographs of Frayer's
- Quotes or small panels or captions indicating community members' reasons for selection
- Two tactile photographs
- Community photos text panel: humanitarian crisis and community resilience
- Community photos (whether physical or projected TBD)
- Take action board: additional info, organizations working on this issue, programming info
- Oral history station: clips from interviews with Rohingya Canadians (additional AV materials and/or digital component TBD)
- Design features that speak to Rohingya culture and traditions
- Audio elements such as spoken poetry and songs

#### Key Messages

- The Rohingya are an ethnic, mostly Muslim minority people with deep roots in Burma/Myanmar, with a distinct culture, tradition, language, and way of life
- There are massive and widespread human rights violations currently taking place in Burma against the Rohingya people who have been forced into exile and into camps in Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries
- Rohingya refugees have suffered many abuses, including physical hardships, killings rapes forced labour, forced migration, and the separation of families
- One form of taking action against these human rights abuses is by documenting them for the world to see
- Rohingya refugees are mobilizing to speak out and expose these violations
- You can raise your voice by raising awareness, providing humanitarian aid, writing to government representatives, supporting NGOs, and other means
- Rohingya-Canadians are thriving and building a new life across the country

#### Human Rights and Metanarrative Connections

*Inspiring human rights reflection and dialogue:* The exhibition will focus on the current human rights violations and humanitarian crisis experienced by the Rohingya. Through photography and supplementary materials, the exhibition will encourage visitors and stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue about the responsibility to take action against injustice.



*Celebrating Canadians' commitments to human rights:* The exhibition will not only showcase the work of award-winning Canadian photographer Kevin Frayer but will also examine the ways in which the Rohingya community in Canada is taking action to shine a light on the human rights crisis taking place in Burma [and to empower their own to become successful members of Canadian society](#). The 'take action' panel of the exhibition will provide a means of encouraging visitors to themselves demonstrate a commitment to human rights.

*Dynamic and accessible human rights content:* The exhibition will make use of multiple content delivery mechanisms. Photographs will be primary, including two tactile photographs with audio scripts. The use of audio and audiovisual materials, as well as various design elements, will provide different ways visitors will be able to access the content. The exhibition's content will be particularly dynamic in its engagement of subject matter that is current and reflective of an ongoing human rights issue.

*A credible and balanced learning resource:* The exhibition will bring together the perspectives and knowledge of various stakeholders and community members, contextualized within a high-level overview of the current crisis in Myanmar, to present content that is balanced, accurate, reflective of multiple perspectives, and engaging to the Museum's various audiences.

#### **Visitor Experience**

The visitor experience will be a mixture of passive and active, consisting of engagement through photographs and limited text. There will be opportunities for more active engagement through the two tactile photographs and oral history station, as well as through the digital component which may use the oral histories in a call response method (details currently in development).

Visitors will be able to self-direct through the exhibition in a largely non-linear fashion, which is particularly important given the various entry points into the L6 Expressions gallery. The impact of the photographs is visceral; visitors should feel appalled at the ongoing atrocities being committed against the Rohingya. Through the examples of community activism and calls to action, visitors should also feel motivated to take action to raise awareness or provide support. Visitors should learn about the humanity of the Rohingya, about the distinct ways of life that are currently under threat yet also being maintained and celebrated by Rohingya worldwide in the face of oppression.

#### **Benefits and Opportunities**

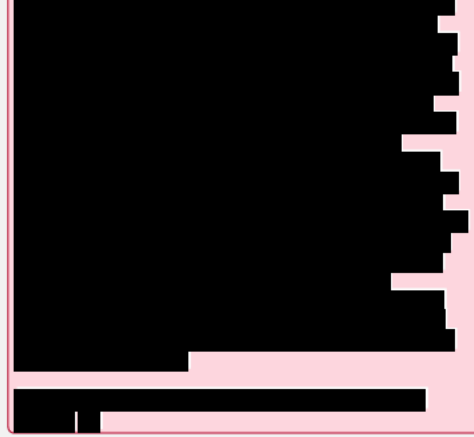
- Opportunity for the CMHR to draw attention to one of the most severe and important ongoing atrocities and humanitarian crises in the world today
- Opportunity for the CMHR to build relationships with the Rohingya community in Canada and to include their perspectives and materials (images, oral histories, design elements) into the exhibition

- Opportunity to partner with various organizations working on this humanitarian crisis, such as the UNHCR, Amnesty International, The Shoah Foundation, the Montreal Holocaust Museum, etc.
- Opportunity to develop and offer integrated programming across varied Museum platforms, including collections (oral history), in-gallery, online, and via public programs

#### Risks

- The exhibition cannot provide a comprehensive history of the culture and traditions of the Rohingya and will need to maintain a narrower focus on the current atrocities and humanitarian crisis
- Aung San Suu Kyi remains an Honorary Canadian; the Museum may face pressure from visitors to lobby the government for the revocation of her citizenship
- The Museum must ensure the voices and perspectives of the community are appropriately heard and reflected in its programming offer (programming including the exhibition, oral histories, public programs etc.)
- There are members of the Myanmar Canadian community whose perspectives on the situation in Burma differ from perspectives of the Rohingya, NGOs, etc.
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## **Rohingya Refugee Crisis – Prospectus v1.0**

2018-08-08/JG/AP

### **Background**

The Rohingya are an ethnic minority, most of whom are Muslim, with deep roots in the Arakan region (Rakhine State) of Burma (Myanmar) where they have lived for hundreds of years. Numbering approximately one million in 2017, the Rohingya maintain a distinct language, religion and culture in a majority Buddhist country. The persecution of the Rohingya can be traced back to the expulsion of the original inhabitants of Arakan, after it was conquered by the Burmese in 1785. However, during Burma's British colonial period, the Rohingya enjoyed a relatively peaceful existence in exchange for their support for the colonial structure. In 1942, with the Japanese occupation of Burma and the British retreat, violence between Arakan's local Muslim and Buddhist communities erupted. The Rohingya were victims of violent attacks and massacres. Thousands fled Burma during this time, and the persecution and exodus continued for decades. In 1982, the new Citizenship Law officially stripped the Rohingya of their citizenship. In the early 1990s, Rohingyas continued to flee increasing religious persecution, forced labour, violence, rape and massacres. It was during this time that they started to arrive in Cox's Bazar, where they were assisted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Violence escalated following incidents in October 2016 and August 2017 when a small group of rebels known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked a series of police bases in Rakhine State. The Myanmar military disproportionately responded by attacking, burning villages, raping, killing, and displacing large numbers of Rohingya, mostly civilians. It is estimated that over 900,000 refugees fled for neighbouring Bangladesh, where many continue to live in dangerous and precarious camps with little access to humanitarian aid and assistance. Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has defended the actions of Myanmar's military and failed to take any actions to stop the violence. Although the civilian wing of the Government of Myanmar has claimed it will bring peace and stability to the region, the crisis remains ongoing and the evidence is clear that Myanmar's military has committed crimes against humanity in its persecution of Rohingya.

In Canada, Rohingya refugees started arriving at the end of the 1990s and began to settle in Kitchener, ON. Today, there is a Rohingya community across the country, with families in Quebec City, Surrey, Winnipeg and Kitchener. With around 35 – 40 families, Kitchener has the largest Rohingya population in the country.

The refugee camps in southeastern Bangladesh, where most Rohingya refugees currently reside, are the largest in the world. The ongoing atrocities and humanitarian crisis demand the attention and aid of countries around the world, including Canada. In the short term, there is dire need for better living conditions, medical care, education, food and other necessities of life for refugees living in camps. In the

longer term, international diplomacy is required to end the crisis and ensure Rohingya can return home safely, with their rights and freedoms protected.

### **Exhibition and Content Approach**

The Rohingya refugee crisis exhibition will be located in CMHR's Level 6 Expressions gallery, opening in June 2019.

The exhibition will include the photographs of award-winning Getty photographer Kevin Frayer, whose powerful work documents the plight of Rohingya refugees during their flight from Myanmar and life in the camps in Bangladesh, in an effort to expose the ongoing atrocities and humanitarian crisis facing Rohingya. Frayer's photographs examine a range of themes, including displacement, death, forced migration, religion, women and children, identity, and belonging.

The final selection of approximately twenty images will be made in close collaboration and dialogue with a curatorial committee made up of members from the Rohingya community who live across Canada. We would like to document the community's reasons for selecting their photos, to be shared in-gallery, online, and/or through programming. Two photographs will be made tactile, similar to the tactile images created for the *Sight Unseen* and *Points of View* exhibitions.

In addition to the photographs of Kevin Frayer, the exhibition will also feature a section of photographs taken by Rohingya community members that not only document the humanitarian and refugee crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh but also community life in Canada, as well as oral history clips and a small number of artifacts such as identity cards. These works will emphasize the humanity of the Rohingya as a distinct people with their own identity and way of life, and their resilience in the face of Myanmar's effort to dehumanize, displace, and eradicate them as a people. They will represent the current humanitarian crisis and the formation of a diaspora community through their own eyes and therefore ensure the exhibition shares a diversity of stories and perspectives.

There is potential to incorporate aspects of Rohingya cultural and religious symbols throughout the design of the exhibition, as well as audiovisual elements such as spoken poetry or music to further convey the traditions, history, and past and present ways of life of the Rohingya.

Finally, we are also planning to include information and material on how visitors can take action on this issue.

In sum, the exhibition elements will include:

- Intro text panel: the Rohingya people, ethnic cleansing, forced migration
- Short bio text panel: Kevin Frayer's statement
- Approximately 20 photographs of Frayer's

- Quotes or small panels or captions indicating community members' reasons for selection
- Two tactile photographs
- Community photos text panel: humanitarian crisis and community resilience
- Community photos (whether physical or projected TBD)
- Take action board: additional info, organizations working on this issue, programming info
- Oral history station: clips from interviews with Rohingya Canadians (additional AV materials and/or digital component TBD)
- Design features that speak to Rohingya culture and traditions
- Audio elements such as spoken poetry and songs

### **Key Messages**

- The Rohingya are an ethnic, mostly Muslim minority people with deep roots in Burma/Myanmar, with a distinct culture, tradition, language, and way of life
- There are massive and widespread human rights violations currently taking place in Burma against the Rohingya people who have been forced into exile and into camps in Bangladesh and other neighbouring countries
- Rohingya refugees have suffered many abuses, including physical hardships, killings, rapes, forced labour, forced migration, and the separation of families
- One form of taking action against these human rights abuses is by documenting them for the world to see
- Rohingya refugees are mobilizing to speak out and expose these violations
- You can raise your voice by raising awareness, providing humanitarian aid, writing to government representatives, supporting NGOs, and other means
- Rohingya-Canadians are thriving and building a new life across the country

### **Human Rights and Metanarrative Connections**

*Inspiring human rights reflection and dialogue:* The exhibition will focus on the current human rights violations and humanitarian crisis experienced by the Rohingya. Through photography and supplementary materials, the exhibition will encourage visitors and stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue about the responsibility to take action against injustice.

*Celebrating Canadians' commitments to human rights:* The exhibition will not only showcase the work of award-winning Canadian photographer Kevin Frayer but will also examine the ways in which the Rohingya community in Canada is taking action to shine a light on the human rights crisis taking place in Burma and to empower their own to become successful members of Canadian society. The 'take action' panel of the exhibition will provide a means of encouraging visitors to themselves demonstrate a commitment to human rights.

*Dynamic and accessible human rights content:* The exhibition will make use of multiple content delivery mechanisms. Photographs will be primary, including two tactile photographs with audio scripts. The use of audio and audiovisual materials, as well as various design elements, will provide different ways visitors will be able to access the content. The exhibition's content will be particularly dynamic in its engagement of subject matter that is current and reflective of an ongoing human rights issue.

*A credible and balanced learning resource:* The exhibition will bring together the perspectives and knowledge of various stakeholders and community members, contextualized within a high-level overview of the current crisis in Myanmar, to present content that is balanced, accurate, reflective of multiple perspectives, and engaging to the Museum's various audiences.

### **Visitor Experience**

The visitor experience will be a mixture of passive and active, consisting of engagement through photographs and limited text. There will be opportunities for more active engagement through the two tactile photographs and oral history station, as well as through the digital component which may use the oral histories in a call response method (details currently in development).

Visitors will be able to self-direct through the exhibition in a largely non-linear fashion, which is particularly important given the various entry points into the L6 Expressions gallery. The impact of the photographs is visceral; visitors should feel appalled at the ongoing atrocities being committed against the Rohingya. Through the examples of community activism and calls to action, visitors should also feel motivated to take action to raise awareness or provide support. Visitors should learn about the humanity of the Rohingya, about the distinct ways of life that are currently under threat yet also being maintained and celebrated by Rohingya worldwide in the face of oppression.

### **Benefits and Opportunities**

- Opportunity for the CMHR to draw attention to one of the most severe and important ongoing atrocities and humanitarian crises in the world today
- Opportunity for the CMHR to build relationships with the Rohingya community in Canada and to include their perspectives and materials (images, oral histories, design elements) into the exhibition
- Opportunity to partner with various organizations working on this humanitarian crisis, such as the UNHCR, Amnesty International, The Shoah Foundation, the Montreal Holocaust Museum, etc.
- Opportunity to develop and offer integrated programming across varied Museum platforms, including collections (oral history), in-gallery, online, and via public programs



## Risks

- The exhibition cannot provide a comprehensive history of the culture and traditions of the Rohingya and will need to maintain a narrower focus on the current atrocities and humanitarian crisis
- Aung San Suu Kyi remains an Honorary Canadian; the Museum may face pressure from visitors to lobby the government for the revocation of her citizenship
- There is risk involved in featuring photographs taken by a non-Rohingya community member; care must be taken to ensure a balance of stories and voices
- The Museum must ensure the voices and perspectives of the community are appropriately heard and reflected in its programming offer (programming including the exhibition, oral histories, public programs etc.)
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