



CONFRONTING ATROCITIES Discussion Guide

Right now, lives are at stake in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and many other places around the globe due to conflict and war. At times, it can feel hopeless. *However, your actions now can make a real difference toward the peaceful world that people of faith and conscience like you have committed to building.*

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee began when our founders confronted the genocide of Jewish people in Nazi Germany. UU minister Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha risked their lives to secure safe passage for many individuals. *While many things may have changed since then, the fundamental question remains: How do we confront atrocities and overcome them?*



Consider what is happening now in Burma (Myanmar).

For decades, ethnic and religious minorities in Burma have been systematically oppressed—including the targeted persecution of the Rohingya people, for which the U.S. government officially determined a genocide. Nearly a million people have fled across the border to refugee camps.

Now three years after the military's attempted coup, the junta is increasing the brutality it inflicts upon its own people—from daily air strikes on civilians to burning homes and villages. Those who stay in country have been forcibly conscripted into military service, risking their own lives in support of the very regime that has stolen its people's futures, or be imprisoned.

The world community is rightfully outraged at these atrocities committed with impunity. **It's why the UU Service Committee funds grassroots groups responding to urgent community needs and pushing back on authoritarianism. Their work seeks justice and accountability for those who have been gravely harmed.**

Around the world, our partners are developing human rights solutions to match the immense scale of the problem.

- **On the ground**, our partners distribute essential humanitarian aid and equip communities with resources to stay connected and protected amidst crises. For example, they provide technology that enables the essential connectivity to alert civilians of bombings and village raids, which can help families move quickly and save lives.
- **In refugee camps** in Bangladesh, where the genocide has forced nearly a million Rohingya, our assistance includes educational opportunities for Rohingya children

and youth who are denied formal schooling.

- **In the U.S.**, individuals in Unitarian Universalist churches like yours are [contacting their representatives to advocate for legislation to stop the flow of funding](#) for jet fuel and other weapons which the junta uses to attack ethnic minorities.
- **And at the international level**, our partners are involved in efforts at the International Court of Justice to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes against humanity.



Scan to make a gift to UUSC's [Emergency Response Fund](#) and help deliver aid with dignity!

Ending genocide in Burma — and anywhere else that human rights are under attack — requires awareness, a united voice, and commitment from all of us. ***What are ways you and your congregation can connect to movements that are confronting genocide and pushing for greater accountability from our world leaders?***