

## What About Myanmar?

If I could represent at the Summit of the Future, I would address peace, justice, and strong institutions as the most important sustainable development goal. Think about being one of many people put in a crowded refugee camp in the middle of nowhere, thinking about what is going on in your home country. Even though there are many other places in the world with wars going on, like what's happening in Ukraine and Israel, the news never tells you about what is happening in Myanmar. As a result, many people don't know what's happening in that country. This is important, because we need to help the people in Myanmar because there is a lot of injustice going on and war. If we don't help them, and stop this crisis, then terrible things will happen. The following is a little about the history and what has been going on in Myanmar.

According to Britannica, the problem started as military leaders gained control over the country and the government of Burma in 1962. As a result, that turned Myanmar into a country run by dictators, without democracy, and no freedom. After the military took control, they renamed the country to Myanmar from Burma in 1989. There were many protests for freedom, but the military fought it with force. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, struggles continued between the military government and the people who wanted democracy. In 2017, military forces started committing large-scale violence. In 2018, an estimated 700,000 people fled the country from the war. A lot of villages and other places have been burned down, and there is still lots of warfare going on in Myanmar. Many people are leaving the country to go to refugee camps in Bangladesh. Now, the impact of the crisis has been affecting over 1.5 million people, which is made up of refugees and volunteers. We need to stop this before everything gets out of control

and the country collapses.

I would help by getting volunteers, and we would move most people to refugee camps in different countries. There would be more room at the camps, which would be higher quality, and there would be better care for the refugees. I would raise money in my community to send supplies and resources to the countries helping the refugees. Then, I would write letters to government leaders worldwide to ask them to sanction Myanmar to weaken them and send military forces to jail the military leaders. I would rebuild the buildings, villages, and houses that were destroyed. We would then offer jobs in well-paying places or companies so they could earn fair pay to buy food, clean water, and other important things once they get back home. Then, after everything is fixed to how it was, I would move everyone back to their homes in Myanmar. This would help a lot of people and make life better for them. First, it would help restore the country back to how it was and bring things back to an almost normal level because the rubble and destruction will all be cleared out, and the environment and buildings will have been restored. Also, it would let the people of Myanmar have their freedom back because the leaders of Myanmar will have been put into prison. People will also get a say in who will be the ruler of the country because the military leaders will not be in charge anymore. In order to do all of this we would have to donate money and resources for fixing up the country. For instance, we would need to create more refugee camps in the countries surrounding Myanmar and we would need a lot of resources for rebuilding all the things that were destroyed.

This matters to me because all people deserve to be safe and not in dangerous situations and places. If this keeps going on, the population of Myanmar will keep decreasing because of

refugees fleeing the country and people dying at fast rates. This is an important issue that people need to know about and unfortunately, not many do. If we succeed with this sustainable development goal, then Myanmar will once again be a safe place where there is no war or fighting. The people who live there will finally have freedom again and the right to vote. If we don't do anything, then the military leaders and dictators will think it is okay to treat people this way and they shouldn't. That is why I think that we should solve sustainable development goal number sixteen because all people have the right to feel safe and live in a place where there is peace and justice.

## Works Cited

*Britannica*. n.d. February 2 2024.

*UN Refugee agency*. n.d. February 1 2024.

*UN.org*. n.d. February 2 2024.