

Information Sheet



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What is ARC?

The Australian Rohingya Community (ARC) is a community-led, not-for-profit organisation based in Sydney, established to provide structure, representation, and continuity for Rohingya people rebuilding their lives in Australia. ARC exists to transform lived experience of displacement and exclusion into organised, collective progress grounded in dignity, accountability, and long-term community empowerment.

Formed in response to the specific realities faced by Rohingya families in Australia, ARC is not a symbolic body but a practical institution. Many community members continue to navigate complex challenges related to settlement, education, employment, civic participation, and the preservation of cultural and religious identity. ARC was created to address these challenges through coordinated action, community governance, and principled advocacy.

ARC serves as a unifying platform where advocacy meets implementation. Through education initiatives, community development programs, cultural engagement, and collaboration with the broader Australian society, ARC works to ensure that Rohingya voices are represented with dignity, that future generations are supported with opportunity, and that the community contributes meaningfully to Australia's multicultural fabric.

ARC's commitment extends beyond Australia. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya remain displaced in overcrowded and under-resourced refugee camps across the region, particularly in Bangladesh, where access to healthcare, education, clean water, nutrition, and personal security remains severely limited. ARC seeks to raise awareness of these conditions within Australia, mobilise humanitarian support, and collaborate with trusted organisations to contribute to relief efforts that uphold dignity, human rights, and long-term resilience. Through advocacy, fundraising, and strategic partnerships, ARC aims both to address immediate humanitarian needs and to ensure that the suffering of Rohingya refugees is neither normalised nor forgotten.

History

The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority indigenous to Rakhine State in western Myanmar, a region historically known as Arakan. For centuries, this coastal frontier sat at the crossroads of South and Southeast Asia, shaped by maritime trade, migration, and plural societies. Historical records, from the Arakanese kingdom, Persian and European travellers, and British colonial censuses document that there was a continuous Muslim presence in the region long before the modern borders of Myanmar existed. Yet history alone has not protected the Rohingya. Instead, it has been systematically denied. (Leider, 2014; Ibrahim, 2016)



Image 1: The state of Arakan

Despite this historical continuity, the Rohingya have been systematically excluded from Myanmar's postcolonial nation-building project. Following independence in 1948, political discourse increasingly reframed Rohingya identity as "foreigners", a narrative that hardened over time. This exclusion was institutionalised through the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law, which redefined citizenship according to narrowly defined ethnic criteria and excluded the Rohingya from the list of officially recognised national groups (UN Human Rights Council [UNHRC], 2018). As a consequence, the majority of Rohingya were rendered stateless, losing legal recognition and access to fundamental civil, political, and social rights.



Image 2: Souls that have lost their home.

Statelessness functioned not as a passive condition but as a mechanism of governance. Restrictions on movement, marriage, education, healthcare, and employment were systematically imposed on Rohingya populations produced a long-term social and economic marginalisation

(Southwick, 2015; Leider, 2014). These policies align with the concept of structural

violence, wherein harm is produced through social and legal systems rather than isolated acts of force (Farmer, 2004).

Over several decades, statelessness was compounded by recurrent episodes of state violence. Large-scale military operations in 1978, 1991–1992, and 2012 displaced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya into neighbouring Bangladesh, creating cycles of forced migration and return under deteriorating conditions (Ullah, 2016). These cycles disrupted education, fragmented families, and entrenched poverty, producing what refugee studies scholars describe as “protracted displacement with no durable solution” (Milton et al., 2017).



Image 3: Once home to Rohingya families now in ashes.

The situation escalated to unprecedented levels in 2016 and 2017, when Myanmar’s armed forces conducted coordinated military operations across northern Rakhine State. Empirical investigations using satellite imagery, survivor testimony, and forensic documentation identified systematic village destruction,

mass killings, and widespread sexual violence (UNHRC, 2018). The UN Fact-Finding Mission documented the destruction of over 350 villages and concluded that the operations were executed with intent consistent with genocide under international law (UNHRC, 2018).

Between August and December 2017 alone, over 700,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar, primarily to Bangladesh, making it one of the fastest refugee outflows in recent history (UNHCR, 2019). Current demographic estimates indicate that approximately 1.8–2 million Rohingya exist globally, with:

- 1.0–1.3 million residing in refugee settlements in Bangladesh
- Around 600,000 remaining in Myanmar, many under severe movement restrictions or in internment camps

- Smaller populations resettled in third countries, including Australia (UNHCR, 2024)

Scholars widely recognise the Rohingya as the largest stateless population in the world (Kingston, 2015; UNHCR, 2024). Conditions in refugee camps have been described in the academic literature as structurally unsustainable, with population density, environmental risk, and restricted access to education and employment posing severe long-term developmental and mental health risks (Milton et al., 2017; Tay et al., 2019).



Image 4: Displacement to uncertainty

For Rohingya refugees resettled in countries such as Australia, displacement continues to shape life trajectories. Empirical studies consistently report elevated rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety among Rohingya refugees, driven by cumulative exposure to violence, prolonged statelessness, and uncertainty (Silove et al., 2017; Tay et al., 2019). Educational disruption and limited formal schooling further constrain socioeconomic integration, particularly for youth and young adults.

Our Vision

ARC envisions a Rohingya community in Australia that lives with dignity, security, and full civic belonging, no longer defined by statelessness or displacement but by participation, contribution, and opportunity.

This vision includes a future in which Rohingya individuals and families can access education, employment, and leadership pathways on equal footing with others in Australian society, while preserving their cultural identity, language, faith, and collective memory. Integration is understood not as assimilation, but as a reciprocal

process in which the Rohingya community both contributes to and is strengthened by Australia's multicultural society.

ARC seeks a society in which Rohingya voices are heard, represented, and respected in public discourse and decision-making, and where future generations grow up with a secure sense of identity, civic confidence, and social connection. The vision extends beyond immediate settlement outcomes toward long-term intergenerational wellbeing, social cohesion, and shared responsibility.

Ultimately, ARC envisions a community that transforms histories of exclusion into foundations for leadership, resilience, and ethical contribution, ensuring that the Rohingya experience in Australia becomes one of enduring belonging rather than marginal survival.

Our Goals

While this vision describes the future ARC seeks to see, the following goals outline the practical and institutional actions through which this vision is pursued. The goal of the Australian Rohingya Community is to establish a strong, self-sustaining, and representative community institution that enables Rohingya individuals and families in Australia to transition from displacement to durable belonging.

ARC seeks to reduce the long-term social, educational, and economic impacts of statelessness and forced displacement by creating structured pathways to education, employment, civic participation, and leadership. Community members are supported to develop skills, confidence, and opportunities that allow full participation in Australian society.

At the collective level, ARC aims to provide an organised and accountable platform for advocacy and representation, ensuring that Rohingya perspectives are included in policy discussions, service design, and public discourse that affect their lives.

This includes strengthening relationships with government institutions, educational bodies, and civil society organisations to promote inclusive and evidence-informed decision-making.

Beyond immediate settlement needs, ARC's goals are intergenerational. The organisation seeks to build enduring community capacity, preserve cultural identity

and historical memory, and foster social cohesion, civic responsibility, and ethical contribution within Australia's multicultural landscape.

Key Activities & Programs

ARC undertakes a coordinated set of activities and programs designed to address settlement barriers, strengthen community capacity, and promote long-term wellbeing and social cohesion. These activities are informed by evidence-based approaches to refugee integration, community development, and participatory governance. Together, these programs form an integrated support framework addressing educational, social, economic, cultural, and civic dimensions of settlement.

Education and Youth Development

Education is prioritised as a primary pathway to long-term social and economic inclusion. Programs support school-aged children, adolescents, and young adults who have experienced disrupted or limited access to formal education due to displacement. Activities include academic mentoring, homework support, guidance on tertiary and vocational pathways, and leadership development initiatives that foster confidence, aspiration, and civic engagement.

Islamic Faith Programs

ARC engages Rohingya youth through faith-informed programs that support identity formation, ethical development, and long-term community leadership. Islamic values such as compassion, responsibility, justice, and service are integrated into youth-centred educational and mentoring initiatives. These programs aim to support moral clarity, emotional resilience, and a strong sense of purpose while navigating life in contemporary Australian society.

Community Wellbeing and Psychosocial Support

Recognising the cumulative effects of trauma, prolonged uncertainty, and social isolation, ARC facilitates community-based wellbeing initiatives that promote mental health, resilience, and social connection. These initiatives emphasise peer support, culturally informed referral pathways, and collaboration with professional service

providers, consistent with research demonstrating the effectiveness of community-led psychosocial interventions among refugee populations.

Settlement Support and Social Integration

ARC provides information, referrals, and community navigation support to assist individuals and families in accessing essential services, including healthcare, education, employment, and housing. Programs aim to reduce structural barriers, improve service literacy, and support meaningful participation in Australian civic and social life, with particular attention to newly arrived families and those transitioning from prolonged displacement.

Cultural Preservation and Intercultural Engagement

ARC supports the preservation of Rohingya language, cultural practices, and collective memory as foundations for identity and wellbeing. Cultural events, community gatherings, and educational initiatives strengthen intra-community bonds while promoting intercultural understanding with the wider Australian community. This approach reflects evidence that cultural continuity enhances, rather than impedes, integration outcomes.

Employment System

Employment is recognised as a central pillar of dignity, independence, and successful settlement. ARC's employment support system provides job-readiness training, including resume development, interview preparation, workplace communication skills, and education on Australian employment rights and standards. The program also facilitates referrals to vocational training and skills-bridging opportunities, community-based mentoring, and partnerships with training providers and local employers to create pathways into sustainable employment.

Gender Inclusion and Family Support

ARC promotes inclusive participation across age and gender, recognising the central role of women and families in community resilience. Programs aim to create safe and respectful spaces for engagement, support skill development, encourage

leadership opportunities, and address barriers to participation in culturally sensitive and evidence-informed ways.

Advocacy, Representation, and Partnerships

ARC engages in advocacy and structured dialogue with government agencies, local councils, educational institutions, and civil society organisations to ensure Rohingya perspectives are represented in policy development and service design. Strategic partnerships are pursued to strengthen community capacity, improve access to resources, and promote coordinated responses to community needs.

Governance

ARC is governed through a community-led, democratic, and accountable structure designed to ensure ethical leadership, transparency, and long-term organisational sustainability. Governance arrangements are informed by recognised best practices in not-for-profit and community organisation management, with a strong emphasis on public benefit and inclusive representation. All office bearers operate in accordance with ARC’s constitution and applicable Australian regulatory requirements.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name of Person</i>
<i>President</i>	Nazimul Anawar
<i>Vice-President</i>	Ibrahim Win
<i>Youth Team Leader</i>	Shamimul Anawar
<i>Secretary</i>	Rizuan Mohammad
<i>Public Officer</i>	Ismail Win
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mohammed Anas
<i>Event Coordinator</i>	Mohammed Ayas
<i>Youth Team Event Coordinator</i>	Arshadu Rahman
<i>Media Coordinator</i>	Mohammad Hossain

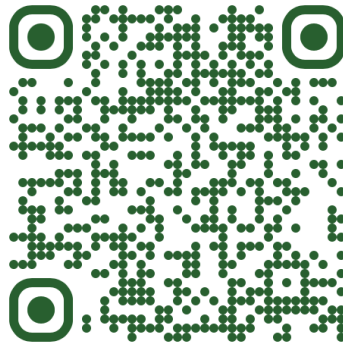
Engagement

ARC is committed to active, ethical, and sustained engagement with its members, partner organisations, and the broader Australian society. Engagement is understood as a participatory process that builds trust, shared understanding, and collective responsibility. We have a few mode of communication:

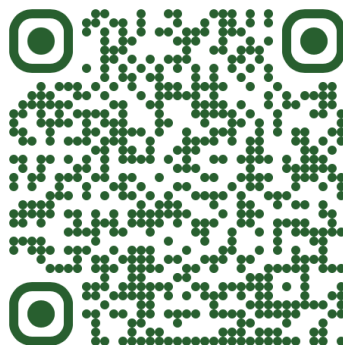
Website: australianrohingyacomunity.org.au



Facebook: Australian Rohingya Community



Instagram: [@australianrohingyacomunity](https://www.instagram.com/australianrohingyacomunity)



Funding

ARC is a not-for-profit, community-led organisation committed to ethical, transparent, and accountable financial management. All funds received are used solely to advance ARC's mission of community welfare, education, advocacy, and social cohesion.

Funding sources include community donations, membership contributions, grants, sponsorships, and fundraising initiatives. Financial decisions are guided by principles of responsibility, equity, and long-term sustainability, ensuring that resources directly benefit the Rohingya community and the broader Australian society. ARC maintains accurate financial records and complies with relevant Australian regulatory requirements.

Bank Account Details for Donations & Transfers:

Account Name:	Australian Rohingya Community
Bank Name:	National Australia Bank (NAB)
BSB:	082356
Account Number:	301750577
Reference:	Donation (Initials of the Person)

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