THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS: EVALUATION OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN BANGLADESH
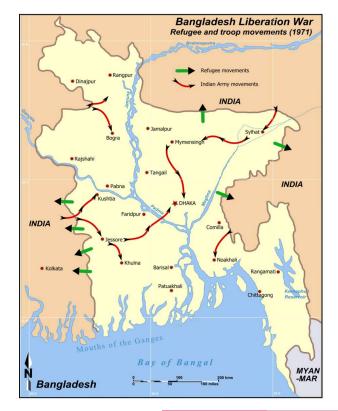

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Introduction

Bangladesh, as a neighboring country to Myanmar, plays a central role in hosting large numbers of refugees (primarily Rohingya).

- Overview of refugee and asylum seeker status globally
- Context of Bangladesh's role in hosting refugees, particularly Rohingya refugees
- Importance of legal frameworks in ensuring rights and protection

Bangladesh Liberation War
Refugee and troop movements (1971)

Refugee Definition and Legal Frameworks

- UN Refugee Convention (1951) and Bangladesh's obligations:A refugee is someone who has fled their country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

- Bangladesh's adoption of international standards (Geneva Convention and Protocol)
- National laws and policies related to refugees

Bangladesh's Legal Framework for Refugees

- Absence of a comprehensive refugee law.Bangladesh lacks a domestic legal framework that specifically addresses the rights of refugees. The country handles refugee issues on an ad-hoc basis.
- Temporary protection for refugees under informal arrangements.While Bangladesh has not officially recognized Rohingya refugees, they have provided temporary protection under informal agreements and humanitarian aid programs.
- Host country challenges: limited formal legal protection
- Political, social, and economic pressures on Bangladesh
- Limited legal recognition and status for refugees
- Lack of formal refugee integration and long-term solutions

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- Right to non-refoulement (protection from forcible return)
- Right to access basic needs: healthcare, education, and employment
- Limited freedom of movement and legal status issues

Conclusion and Recommendations

- Need for a comprehensive refugee law in Bangladesh

- Strengthening international cooperation for refugee protection

- Enhancing legal access, integration policies, and humanitarian aid