

MIGRATION IS A CLIMATE ISSUE

A Search for Refuge Reaching From Mesoamerica to Myanmar

Hosts: Action Corps NYC, Sustaining All Life · Co-Host: Burma Task Force



<https://qz.com/1124055/climate-change-will-be-the-border-control-of-the-future/>

DATE

Sept. 23rd

TIME

5:00-6:30pm

LOCATION

4 West 43 Street, Suite 407
New York, NY 10036

Millions of people across the world have felt the devastating effects of the climate crisis which has both exacerbated and resulted in displacement. This is true in Bangladesh where Rohingya refugees are living in areas prone to climate disasters, in Puerto Rico and the Bahamas where residents have been displaced due to category 5 hurricanes, and in Mesoamerica where agriculture faces difficulties thriving due to a changing climate. With the United Nations in session, leaders must take this issue seriously in order to achieve global change. To better understand the situation of migrants, we need to reconnect with our own roots as migrants ourselves and look at the hopelessness and discouragement that can overtake us whenever we think about the complexities of the issues at hand. Once we do that, we are better positioned to take important action ourselves. In this workshop, you will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the Rohingya crisis, recent hurricanes, and agriculture in Mesoamerica, and learn how these crises are connected to the climate crisis.
- Hear from Osameh Siddiqui about his experience being a Rohingya refugee and his work as the director of Rohingya Welfare Association.
- Advocate on legislation supporting climate migrants.
- Learn approaches to heal from the damage of oppression, increase effectiveness in the climate justice movement, and prevent burnout.

www.SustainingAllLife.org

Action Corps NYC

Action Corps was originally founded by Oxfam America in 2007 as a program for grassroots activists to work on Oxfam's campaigns. The goal of these campaigns was ultimately to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. In 2016, Oxfam ended the Actions Corps program, but volunteers have continued to keep organizing as a separate body called Action Corps, with a similar goal in mind. Our mission is to champion justice for those most affected by climate change and violent conflict; within this, our three campaigns are climate justice, the civil war in Yemen, and the Rohingya crisis. By working on these campaigns, we strive to achieve a more equitable world. We accomplish this through mobilizing constituencies and educating politicians on foreign policy issues from a humanitarian angle.

Sustaining All Life & United to End Racism

It is possible to limit the effects of human-caused climate change and restore the environment, but some very large changes in our economy and the lives we live are needed for this to happen. Sustaining All Life (SAL) and United to End Racism (UER) believe the environmental crisis cannot be resolved without ending racism, genocide toward Indigenous peoples, classism, sexism, and other oppressions. The mental and emotional harm done to us by oppression and other hurtful experiences interferes with our ability to think clearly and sets groups of people against each other. In SAL and UER we have learned that it is possible to free ourselves from these hurts and address barriers to effective organizing. By taking turns listening to each other and encouraging emotional release, people can heal from the mental and emotional harm and become better able to think, speak out, and organize and lead others in building a sustainable world. SAL and UER are projects of and use the tools of Re-evaluation Counseling, which currently exists in 95 countries.

Burma Task Force

Burma Task Force (BTF) is a coalition of 38 US and Canadian Muslim organizations, including our parent organization, Justice For All, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, dedicated to advocating for the Rohingya and ending the genocide in Burma. Burma Task Force was originally founded in response to attacks on Rohingya homes and businesses by ultra-nationalist Buddhists supported by government security forces. In 2012 such attacks led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of casualties, as well as mass displacement to prison-like camps. Since the mass atrocities and mass displacement of over 750,000 Rohingya began in late August 2017, Burma Task Force has stepped up its advocacy for the rights of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, the internally displaced population and all those denied freedom of movement and at risk of starvation. Military and vigilante attacks arise out of long-established policies of apartheid, exclusion, and disenfranchisement. Burma Task Force believes that any repatriation must be linked to restoration of rights as well as property, along with safety guarantees.