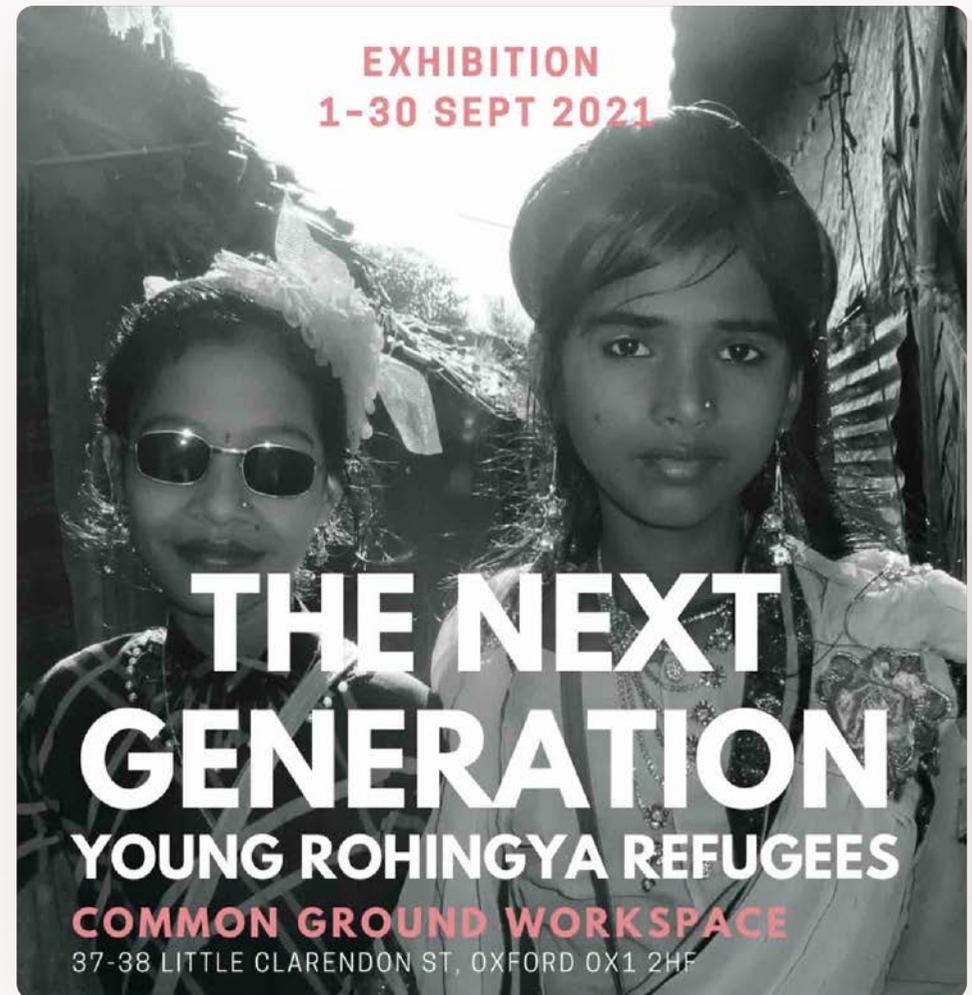


# The Next Generation - Young Rohingya Refugees

1-30 September 2021

Oxford Human Rights Festival showcases the work of Rohingya photographers in the refugee camps of Bangladesh. Common Ground Workspace, 37-38 Little Clarendon Street, Oxford OX1 2HF



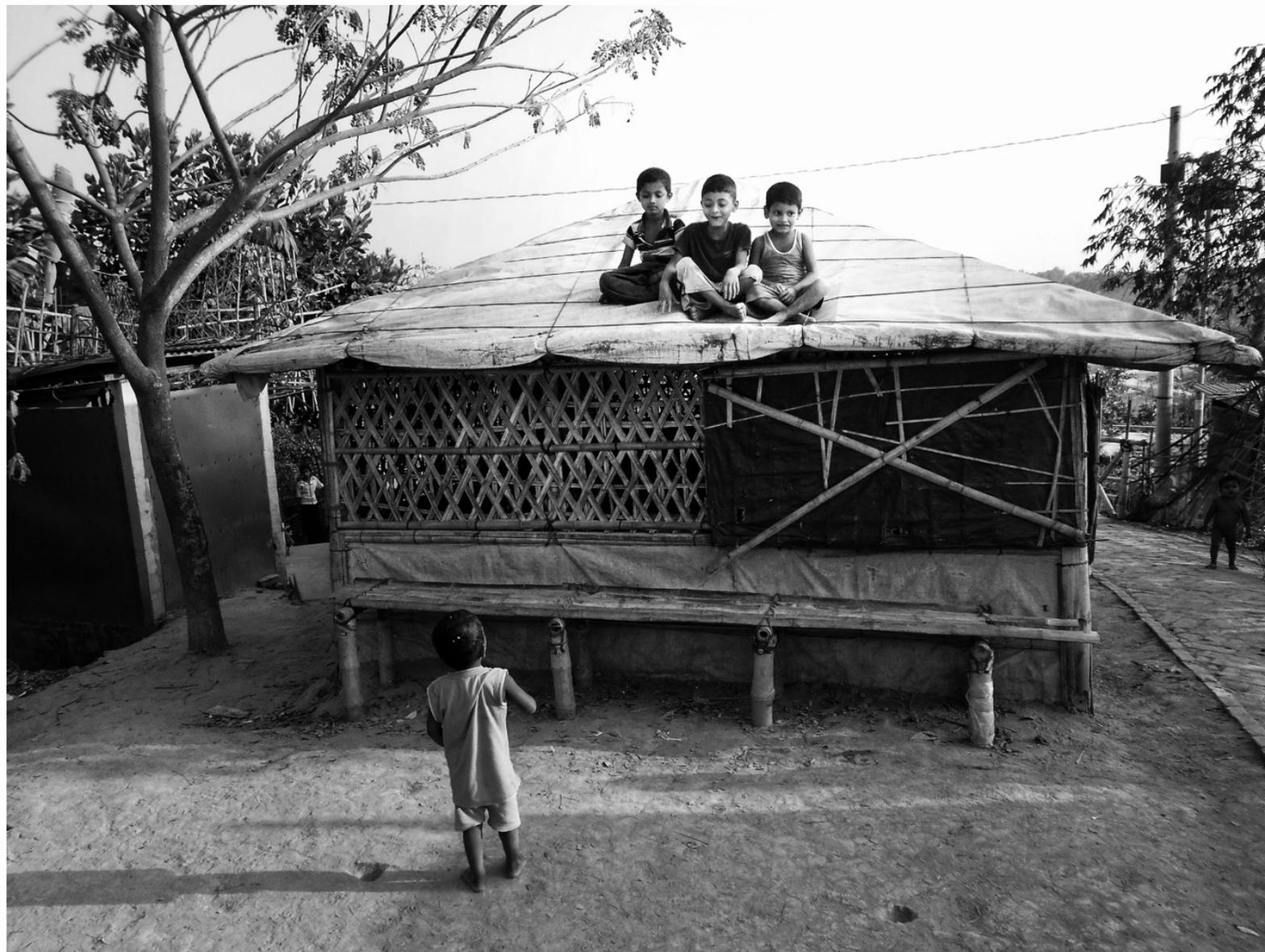
## The Next Generation by Zahangir Alam

The Rohingya are facing a “lost generation” as children both in Myanmar and in the refugee camps of Bangladesh struggle to get an education.



## We live in small homes - Zahangir Alam

*"In Kutupalong, most shelters are small. A family of 5 or 6 or more occupies a single room. Different generations, adults, teenagers and children all in one space. There is no privacy for us."*



## Portrait of a Memory by Abul Kalam

*"Some of us have been  
refugees three times since 1992.  
Some of us have been refugees  
since birth."*



## Annual Flooding by Haider Ali

*"The rain didn't stop. The water got higher and higher. We had to abandon our homes. Toilets could not be used. Tubewells could not be used. We could not cook anything."*



## Scrap Collectors by Mainul Islam

Children collect bags of plastic rubbish to sell by the kilo. They work for a pittance. There are many forms of child labour in the camps.



## Bhasan Char by Anonymous

*"For some reason, I don't sleep properly. When I lie awake, in the dead of night, I can hear the sea and sometimes the horn of berthing ships. I feel a bit strange then but by the morning that feeling goes away."*

Thousands of Rohingya have been relocated to a remote island off the coast of Bangladesh.



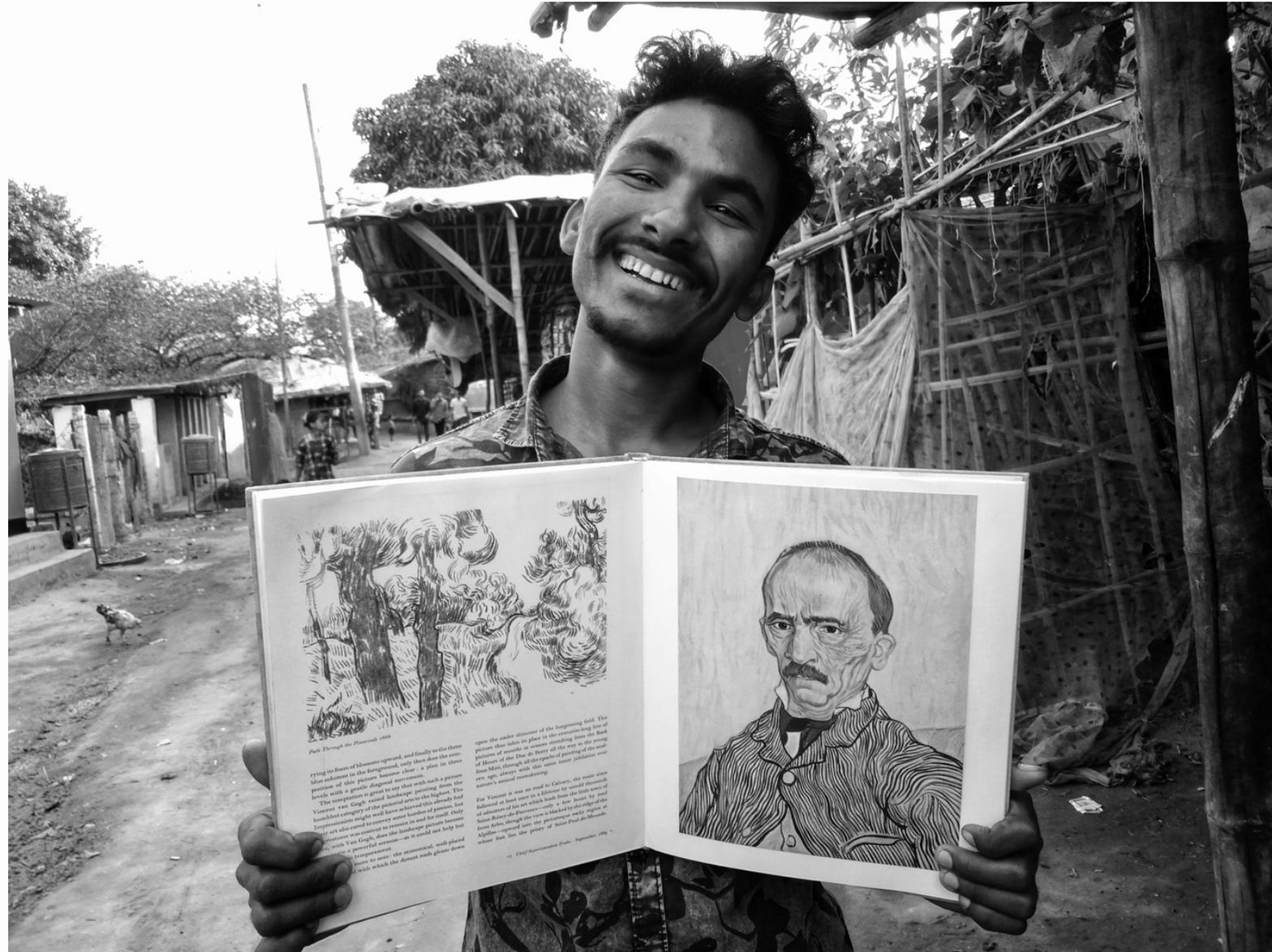
## Fire in Camp 8 by Mohammed Salim Khan

*"We lost everything."* The great  
fire of March 22, 2021  
destroyed the homes of over  
50,000 people.



# I love Van Gogh by Salim Ullah Armany

*"I wanted to be educated. I wanted to read about the great artists. But that will not happen."*



## Solidarity by Noor Hossain

This was the first social media image posted from the Rohingya camps expressing solidarity with the struggle against military dictatorship in Myanmar. In response, many Myanmar people expressed regret that they had ignored the Rohingya crisis and acknowledged they had believed the Myanmar military propaganda.



## Viva Messi by Abdul Monaf

Argentina is the overwhelming favourite for Rohingya football fans. Here, their victory in Copa America, 2021, is being celebrated.



## Dressed up for Eid by Jamal Arkani

*"Once I asked my mother why she was crying on Eid day. She told me that she was thinking about another Eid day when the military attacked our village and we left our home in Myanmar."*



## Dressed up for Eid by Mohammed Hossain

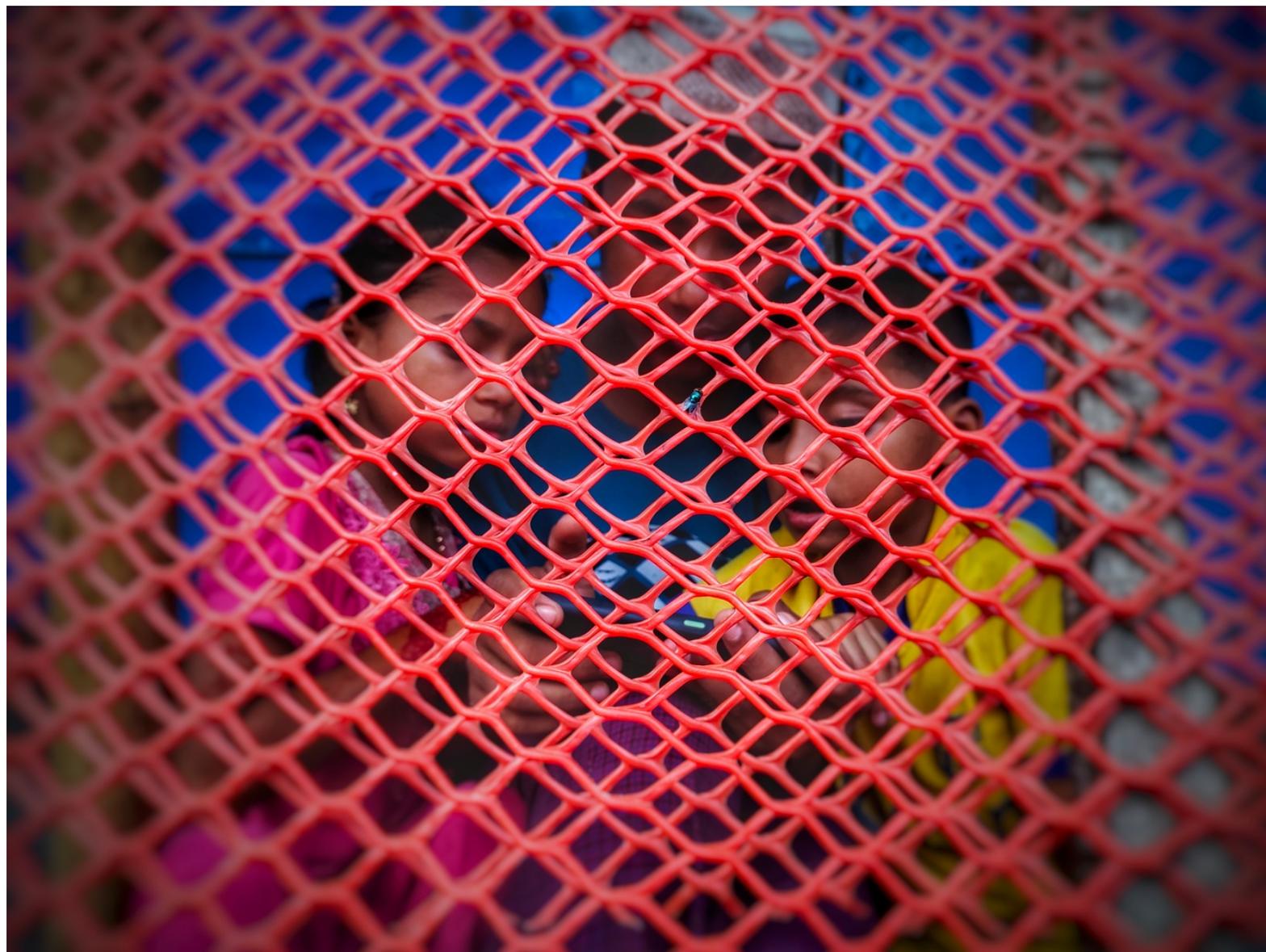
Back in Myanmar, many Rohingya could not celebrate eid for fear of persecution. They could not practise their religion. In Bangladesh, refugees do their best to mark the day.



## Without Wifi. Without connections by Mohammed Zonaid

*"Internet ban forced people to rely on 2G. Only some spots had any signal. And people would huddle."*

*"We were without any mobile internet for almost a year. We could not get any news. We could not speak to our relatives. It is as if we do not belong anywhere not even on the internet."*



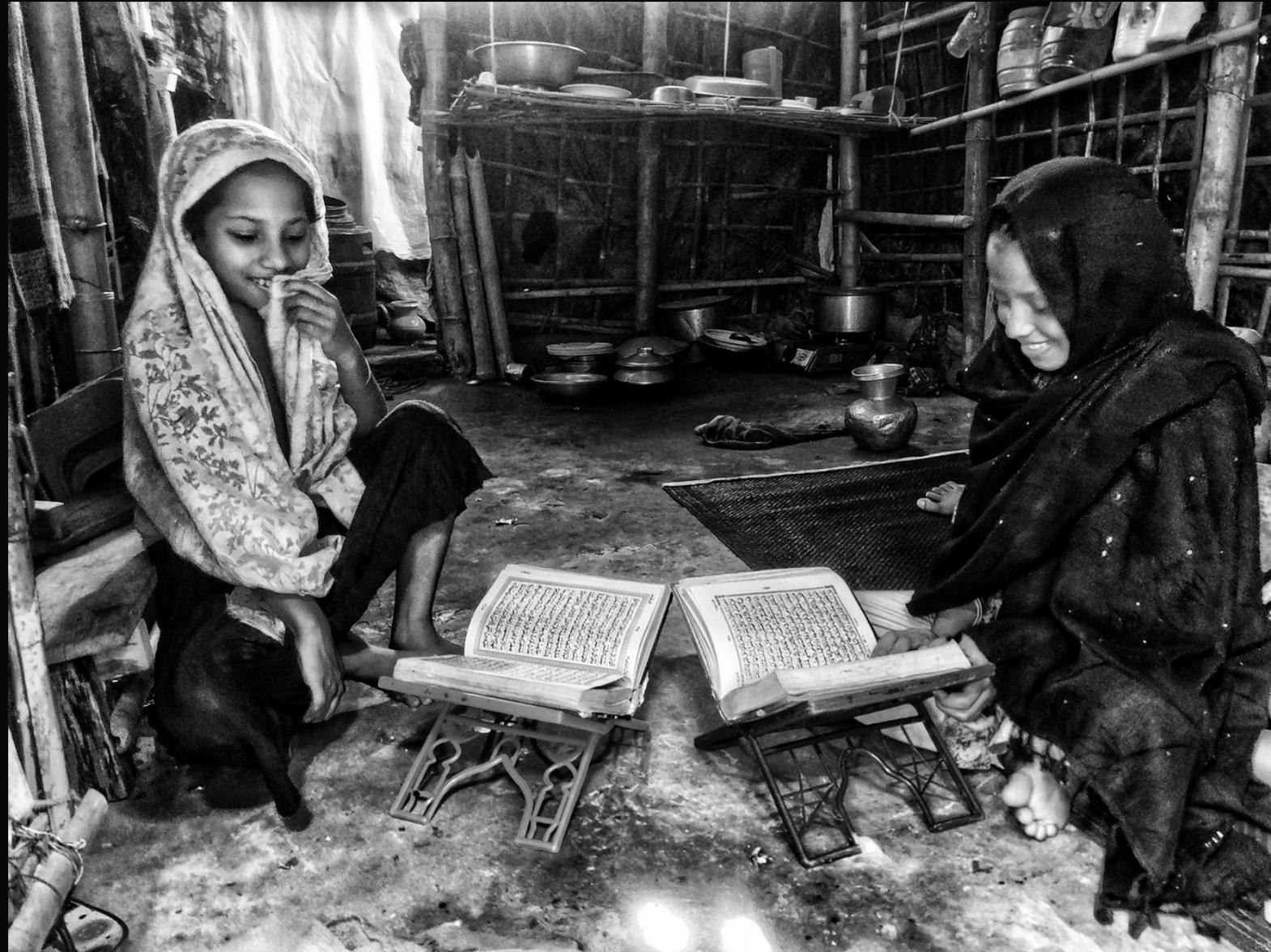
## Mother and Child by Noor Hossain

*"I am called a Forcibly  
Displaced Myanmar national. I  
have no rights here. To work or  
move around. My baby was  
born here but she will have no  
rights either. We are expected to  
live on rations."*



## Lost generation by Samiya

*"I am 30 years old. It is ok I was never educated. Not in Myanmar. Not in Bangladesh. But I wanted my children to be able to read and write. Is that too much to ask? Are we not people?"*



## Fire by Ro Yassin Abdumonab

March 22nd, 2021. The barbed wire fencing around the camps hindered escape from the fire. Many aid organisations voiced this concern in an open letter.



## Broken Youth by Sahat Zia Hero Naing

*"If something breaks, it begins to decay. The more it decays, the more it breaks. And this is what happens in our camps. This is how it is for everything and everyone."*



# About

Rohingya refugees are from western Myanmar. Over the last four decades, Rohingya have been subject to persistent human rights violations and repeated mass expulsions from Myanmar. Around a million Rohingya live in the refugee camps of Bangladesh. Of these, 750,000 refugees fled their homes in Myanmar after August 2017. More than half the refugees are children under the age of 18. These photographs are not taken by "professionals" per se. This is because refugees are not permitted to work or have a profession. All but one of the images were taken on mobile phones. In spite of this, refugees are very interested in communicating their lived experience into something knowable for outsiders. It is the curator's wish that through these photographs we might gain some access to the moments captured in the photographs - so that we might get a glimpse of their lives, try to understand what is happening and perhaps do something about it.

## Call to Action:

Buy a photo <https://kutupalong.com/oxford>

ALL PROFIT WILL GO TO PHOTOGRAPHERS

and/or visit this page to help build much needed tube wells.

<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/tubewells>

## Curator - Shafiur Rahman

Shafiur Rahman is a journalist and documentary filmmaker. He has been working on Rohingya issues since 2016. His work has featured on CNN, BBC and other channels. His film, "Tula Toli: Testimonies of a Massacre", was the first documentary to highlight one of the worst massacres of the Rakhine crisis of 2017.

To see more Rohingya photography, visit

<https://instagram.com/rohingyaphotography> and check out the

Rohingya photography Zine, Doc Sábbá, here

<https://zine.doshsabba.com> Follow Shafiur on Twitter: @shafiur



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