

Dear Multi-faith communities, leaders, and Australian-Politicians,

I am Noor Zaman, President of Queensland Rohingya Community, and I am honoured to address you today on behalf of the Rohingya Community. In these challenging times, as we reflect on our shared commitment to justice and human rights, I draw a parallel between our cause and the ongoing situation in Gaza.

Much like the Rohingya people, the people of Gaza have faced injustice, atrocities, and human rights abuses. They, too, deserve a voice and solidarity from the international community. As we stand united in solidarity with our Indigenous Australian brothers and sisters, supporting the Referendum Yes Vote and the Constitutional Recognition of Australia's First Nations peoples, we also extend our support to all those who seek justice and freedom around the world.

Having witnessed the impact of abuse and the importance of giving victims a voice, our support for the Voice to Parliament remains steadfast. We call for cooperative support to bring smiles to the faces of our Indigenous brothers and sisters, knowing that the Yes Vote referendum can educate the younger generation about the struggles of Indigenous peoples, past and present.

This Yes Vote has the potential to unite our communities under a single banner of freedom, prompting our nation to confront the remnants of a colonial history. It is a reminder that we must not neglect the pressing issues facing Indigenous communities, including floods, bushfires, drinking water crises, and healthcare challenges.

It is crucial to reflect on the actions of our politicians. While they allocate significant resources to international causes, such as military aid to Ukraine, we must question what they have done for our own First Nations peoples in times of crisis. The hypocrisy in their actions is truly shameful.

Moreover, we express our deep concern about the involvement of the Ukrainian government in atrocities and genocide in Myanmar, including the supply of weapons to Myanmar's government. We call upon the Australian government to reconsider its military aid to Ukraine and redirect these funds to address our own pressing regional issues.

On October 14th, 2023, as we move forward with the Yes Vote Referendum, let us not only show unity within our nation but also extend our solidarity to those suffering injustice worldwide, including the people of Gaza. Together, we can make a difference and strive for a more just and equitable world.

Sincerely,

Noor Zaman
President, Queensland Rohingya Community