

AFTER THE EXODUS

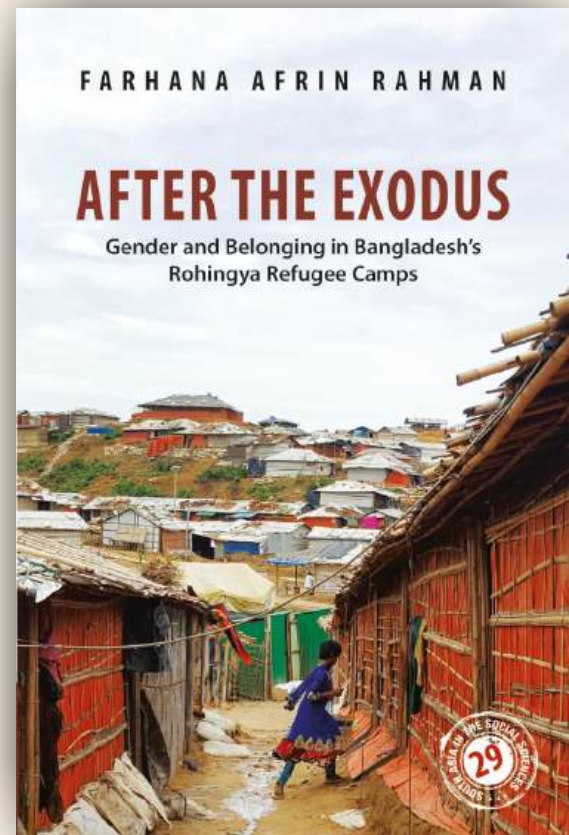
Gender and Belonging in Bangladesh's
Rohingya Refugee Camps

Farhana Afrin Rahman

After the Exodus examines how forced migration of the Rohingya from Myanmar to Bangladesh has affected the gendered subjectivities and lived experiences of Rohingya refugee women, and transformed gender relations and roles in displacement. Based on 14 months of feminist ethnographic fieldwork in Bangladesh's Kutupalong-Balukhali refugee camp in 2017 and 2018, the book uncovers the everyday strategies employed by refugee women to create a sense of belonging and to make a life for themselves after forced migration. Rohingya women adapt to camp life by negotiating marriage and intimate experiences, adjusting to changing gender divisions of labour, and navigating encounters with humanitarian aid agencies and male camp leaders. These women strategically bargain shifting power relations to reconstruct their lives in displacement, thereby reclaiming agency and asserting their identity through the spaces they create, inhabit, and reshape; the coping mechanisms they employ; and the bonds of kinship and community they forge.

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CONTENTS

- Acknowledgments*
Prologue
1. Introduction
 2. Stories and Silences: On Entering and Writing Women's Worlds
 3. Life Under Siege: On Violence and Displacement
 4. At Journey's End: On Home and Belonging
 5. Beyond Brides: On Marriage and Moral Panics
 6. Broken Breadwinners: On Womanhood and Gender Divisions of Labour
 7. The Price of Development: On NGOs and Gender Programming
 8. Conclusion
- Epilogue*
Glossary
Bibliography
Index

Endorsements

After the Exodus is a refreshing addition to the literature of Rohingya camps in Bangladesh. Through intense ethnographic details, life in the camps – the way that families regroup, new relationships formed, the problems with bringing up children in these cramped conditions, the issues surrounding marriage negotiations – are brought to life in vivid detail.

– **Firdous Azim**

Professor and Chair at the Department of English and Humanities at BRAC University, Dhaka

This extraordinary monograph weaves the politics of storytelling in the context of acutely gendered violence and ethnic cleansing among Rohingya people with the futures they forge as they remake 'home' in the refugee camps of Bangladesh. This reflexive and original feminist ethnography grapples with the unspeakable crimes against humanity faced by the Rohingya but goes well beyond their survival in the camps of Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh, highlighting their presence, perseverance, and strength under conditions not of their own making.

– **Jennifer Hyndman**


author of Managing Displacement: Refugees and the Politics of Humanitarianism (2000)

This book provides a much-needed in-depth and poignant examination of the experiences of Rohingya women in the refugee camps of Bangladesh, exploring the complex interplay of gender identity, relations, and roles amid the harsh realities of forced displacement. Overall, a brilliantly researched and compelling book that offers a crucial perspective on the world's most marginalized individuals, making it a highly relevant and significant read.

– **Azeem Ibrahim OBE**

author of The Rohingyas: Inside Myanmar's Hidden Genocide (2016)

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