

THE BLUE BANNER

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The Blue Banner is UNC Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Tuesday except during summer sessions, finals week and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Karpen Hall 019.

The Blue Banner is a designated forum for free speech and welcomes letters to the editor, considering them on basis of interest, space and timeliness. Letters and articles should be emailed to the editor-in-chief or the appropriate section editor. Letters should include the writer's name, year in school, and major or other relationship to UNCA. Include a phone number to aid in verification. All articles are subject to editing.

EDITORIAL

Americans should take responsibility for global issues

While we sit comfortably in our cushy lives as university students in the United States, in Myanmar, Rohingya Muslim refugees are being hacked and shot to death.

Some may question, what this issue has to do with us in a country on the other side of the world?

As a part of a university that consistently drills into us the importance of being global citizens, it is imperative we keep abreast of the news happening in other countries. President Trump oscillates on the issue of addressing the plight of the Rohingya, from completely ignoring human rights abuses in Asia during his trip to the continent last November to declaring the U.S. will pledge military support to end the crisis in Myanmar.

The Rohingya massacre, with an estimated 10,000 individuals killed in December alone, has recently been compared to the Rwandan genocide, where a million people were killed in one month alone. While these numbers are obviously considerably

smaller, it is a crisis that is escalating on a day-to-day basis and it is a crisis that does not seem to end anytime soon.

While there are issues in the U.S. that remain relevant to protest, we as American citizens should include the slaughter of minorities in other countries in addition to women's rights and Black Lives Matter inside our opposition. By putting pressure on Trump and other American politicians to address the crisis in Myanmar, we can use our privilege to raise awareness of a people who are being grossly overlooked and left to die in a country that garners little-to-no publicity.

The people of the U.S. are oftentimes in their own little bubble and have been so for too long. With the growing advent of awareness about issues that have plagued our own country for so long, it is also time we stand up and assume the role of global citizens to fight for people in other countries who do not possess the voices we have become so accustomed to having.



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