

Celebrating in 2025

August – September – October

Ken's Birthday – Visakha's Birthday
Fifty Years of Marriage – Twenty Years in Sri Lanka



Beginnng Sunday, August 10
Dana at our home in Kandy
152/1 Riverdale Road, Anniwatte
Serving the Sangha at 11:00 AM

Lunch at 1 PM

All are invited

R. S. V. P.

No personal gifts, please.

We need nothing but your friendship!



Donations to Buddhist Relief Mission would be appreciated

Donations may be made in Sri Lanka via:

Commercial Bank,
Anniwatte Branch
A/C 8254001210
Kenneth Kawasaki

in the U.S. via:

River Bank & Trust
Buddhist Relief Mission
A/C 262527856
ABA Code: 062206567

In case of a bank deposit, please send donor's name and the amount of the donation by SMS or WhatsApp to +94-77-964-9292 or by email to <buddhist@brelief.org>

For international bank transfer, please send a request for instructions.



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2VNPE5P8FZP58

Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission to carry out various programs, such as, providing food, medicine, and other essentials to families, students, schools, monasteries, hospitals, and other institutions in Sri Lanka during this economic crisis, helping refugees in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Thailand, assisting monks and nuns in India and Nepal, supporting Buddhists in American prisons, and responding to emergencies worldwide. Thank you for your generous support!

Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!

Two Appeals

Exercise

Kandy National Hospital is setting up an exercise gym for psychiatric inpatients. We would like to help.

Do you have any used equipment to donate?
Please contact us to discuss arrangements.



Clothing drive

Are your closets over-crowded with clothes you no longer wear or need?

They can be used. We will help find a good home for them where they will be worn and appreciated. Refugees and local institutions. Men's, Women's, Children's, Babies' – everything is OK! Please contact us.



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Urgent Appeal to Help Provide Medical Care to the a Remote Valley in Nepal

Buddhist Relief Mission has just received this message from Ven. Tsundue, a Tibetan nun whom we have long known and respected. After studying in BodhGaya at the Root Institute for several years, she moved to Nepal, where she is now studying and practicing in Patan, near Kathmandu. Buddhist Relief Mission would like to be part of the project.

We are forwarding this appeal for your consideration and support.



Dear Friends,

Sight to Sky <www.sighttosky.org> is raising funds to support a remote Himalayan monastic community in Tsum Valley, Nepal. There is no hospital, no pharmacy, and no doctor.

This heartfelt request comes directly from the Geshema at Rachen Nunnery, where many practitioners have spent years in retreat, dedicating their lives to the Dharma and praying for all sentient beings. Now, they need our support.

With your help, we aim to:

- Hire a full-time nurse for 2 years to care for elderly sangha and local villagers – \$250/month = \$6,000
- Fund emergency helicopter evacuations throughout the year – \$3,500
- Provide 2 wheelchairs – \$200
- Create a 2-year medicine fund for chronic needs (blood pressure, arthritis, gastric illness) – \$10,000
- Provide women's hygiene and feminine care products for the nuns – \$800

TOTAL: US\$24,500



Additionally, Sight to Sky will personally sponsor a full-scale medical mission in early November 2025, bringing volunteer doctors to provide eye exams, women's health checkups, general consultations, health education, and free medications.

Every dollar counts. Even \$10 helps one elder receive a week's worth of essential medicine.

The campaign runs through 2025. Please join us in this deeply compassionate mission.

With deep gratitude,

Liz, Founder of Sight to Sky



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Rohingya Refugees Escaping from Genocide in Myanmar



Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Most of the world has forgotten the genocide being perpetrated against the Rohingya in Arakan State in Myanmar (Burma).

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority in Myanmar. Though they have resided in Arakan State for many generations, they have frequently been oppressed and persecuted by both the Buddhist majority government and the local Arakan Army, which is also in conflict with the central government. The most recent wave of violence began in 2017 with organized destruction of Rohingya homes and razing of entire villages. Thousands of Rohingya were killed, and many of their bodies were buried in mass graves. This horrendous crackdown has been described as a war crime and genocide. In the eight years since this violence began, there has been a massive exodus of Rohingya fleeing the country. There are more than one and a half million Rohingya struggling to survive in crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh.

Conditions in these camps, the largest in the world, are, to say the least, inadequate, and, with recent reductions in funding from the United Nations, largely due to President Trump's suspension of USAID, the situation has become dire. The suspension of U.S. support has had an outsized and immediate impact, threatening both emergency relief and longer-term prospects for stability. In addition, other countries, including the United Kingdom and Germany have announced their own cuts. Al Jazeera has reported that, since the beginning of this year, food rations have been cut from \$12 a month to \$8 a month to \$6 a month, basically half, and that, at that level, since they can't afford any fish or chicken, they are surviving on just pulses and rice.

Recent aid cuts have forced health clinics to suspend all non-emergency medical services and to reduce support for mental health care, GBV prevention, and services for people with disabilities. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people have been affected by the loss of medical services. Patients with chronic illnesses, in need of prenatal care, or suffering from any non-life-threatening conditions have to seek treatment and to obtain prescriptions, if they can afford it, outside the camps. Plans to provide Hepatitis C treatment to 7,000 people through the World Health Organization have reportedly been put on hold due to the aid freeze.

Of course, educational programs are also in jeopardy. All of the schools set up by the refugees themselves are in dire need of funds to maintain their buildings, to provide books and supplies to the students, and to offer snacks or meals to allow them to continue their studies.



Sri Lanka

There are two groups of Rohingya refugees in Sri Lanka. The first group of Rohingya, rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy several years ago, have been granted temporary asylum and are staying in Panadura, south of Colombo. The second group, rescued by the Navy in December 2024, are still being held in an Air Force base in Mullaitivu, near Trincomalee. The fate of this group has not yet been decided, and there have been several rallies urging the Sri Lankan Government not to deport them back to Myanmar, where they would be certain to suffer further persecution.

Those in Panadura had, until this year, been receiving a stipend from UNHCR, but, with the closure of the office in Colombo, that stipend was cancelled, and they are struggling. Without legal residence, they cannot find adequate employment, and the children are not eligible to attend public school. Furthermore, they face discrimination in housing arrangements. They are barely subsisting, primarily on private donations. Given our long relationship with Burma (Myanmar), as well as our involvement with refugees, both Indochinese and Burmese, Buddhist Relief Mission would like to help both the refugees in Sri Lanka and those in the camps in Bangladesh.

We appeal to our donors for support. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=X2Z7984XKKEGU

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Relief Aid to Rohingya Refugees Rescued by Sri Lankan Navy



On 19 December 2024, a multi-day trawler carrying 116 persons, including 57 children, from the Rohingya community in Myanmar drifted towards the coast off Mullivaikkal in Mullaitivu. Local fishermen provided humanitarian assistance including water and food, and the Sri Lanka Navy escorted the boat to Trincomalee. Several persons had in fact perished during the journey. Later, the survivors were brought before the Trincomalee Magistrate and eventually detained at the Mullaitivu Air Force Camp.

srilankanews.lk

<https://srilankanews.lk/en/protest-in-mullaitivu-for-rohingya-refugees/>



LEAD STORY

Protest in Mullaitivu for Rohingya refugees

January 9, 2025 / Editor

A protest was held in front of the Mullaitivu District Secretariat today (09) demanding that the refugees from Myanmar who are being held at the Mullaitivu Air Force Base not be deported back to Myanmar.

This protest was held by a group of civil society activists, women's organization representatives, journalists and fishermen.

The protesters have been protesting demanding that the government treat these refugees humanely.

They also submitted an open letter to the government, in which the protesters requested that Sri Lanka act in accordance with the UN Conventions on Refugees to which Sri Lanka is currently a signatory.

Mr. Ruki Fernando, a human rights activist who participated in the event, stated that there are even children among this group. He further stated that if Sri Lanka acts in violation of international agreements regarding this group, the country could be greatly disgraced.

UPDATE, September 14, 2025

Relief Assistance Has Become Possible!

There are currently 117 Myanmar refugees staying under supervision at the Mullaitivu Air Force camp. Among them are 53 females including young children, 63 males, and even a newborn baby. The group includes infants, children, youth, and adults. The camp authorities have announced that it has become possible to provide necessary supplies for them. Arrangements for donations should be made through the Controller General, Department of Immigration and Emigration.

Particular attention should be paid to the children, the elderly, the disabled, the sick, and those with special needs.

A team is planning to make a visit to the camp and to carry as many relief supplies as possible.

Donations of packaged food, medicine, clothing, toys, baby formula, diapers, sanitary napkins, toiletries, and any other useful items may be sent or delivered to BRM. 152/1 Riverdale Road, Anniwatte, Kandy 20000.

For more information, call 077-964-9292



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Monetary donations may also be made

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Recent Buddhist Relief Mission Activities



Food Parcels for Needy Families

The recently elected Sri Lankan government is trying very diligently to readjust the economy and to compensate for years of mismanagement and corruption. Nevertheless, inflation is high, and the situation is still critical for many ordinary people. During this difficult time, Buddhist Relief Mission continues to distribute parcels of dry rations to destitute families wherever and whenever we can.

Uniforms for a School Marching Band



Click the photo for a 12-second video of the band in action

Pete Seeger believed in the power of song, and we agree that music is important to a good education. When we were asked to provide uniforms for this impoverished rural school, we were delighted to find a donor. Please listen to children proudly perform.



Kandy Cancer Home

Every month, on the 15th, we offer high tea, dry rations, and medicine to the residents of this center. Before they eat, they share merit with donors. Click the photo for a video of their singing "Happy Birthday" to Visakha.



Venerable Nanda

Each month, we provide a parcel of dry rations and medicine to this elderly nun who resides in a hermitage on a former tea estate near Kandy. We often invite her to join a dana with our students in Anniwatte.



Ven. Tsundue

We continue to support this Canadian nun, a student of the late Lama Zopa Rinpoche, in her study and practice. She recently celebrated her birthday in Malaysia.



Medical Assistance

BRM occasionally receives requests for medicine, medical equipment, physical aids, such as a bedside commode or a wheelchair. We try never to refuse such a request. This elderly woman suffers from severe osteoporosis and needed a walker. Godwin Memorial Fund assisted us in buying one.



Refugee Aid

We were happy to meet members of the Aid Committee of the local mosque and to learn that they are assisting the Rohingya refugees. We will be able to coordinate our efforts with them.

Poya Day at Methasevana Rehabilitation Center

Every month on Poya Day, the young men at this center take sila and meditate with a monk. BRM provides lunch packets for their practice. In October, Vipul, our SERVAS guest from India, led them through a session of yoga. Congratulations to Amila, who just received his counseling degree from Royal High Campus. Buddhist Relief Mission supported his study.



School Supplies Donated by "From Our Hands to Their Hearts"

Buddhist Relief Mission was happy to cooperate with this activist youth group in their initiative of donating supplies—exercise books, pens, etc.—to fifty poor students at a small school in a village near Kandy. We were introduced to this group by Rebecca, one of the five female members of the group, who is the daughter of Ashoka, our three-wheeler driver.



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Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission to carry out programs such as these, providing food, medicine, and other essentials to families, students, schools, monasteries, hospitals, and other institutions in Sri Lanka and assisting refugees in both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Thank you for your generous support!



When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

—Maya Angelou



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