

2

March 2026

10.15 - 11.45 am

CET

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SIDE EVENT

Place

CENTRE
D'ACCUEIL DE LA
GENÈVE
INTERNATIONALE

RSVP

stalliance@unhcr.org

La Pastorale
Route de Ferney
106, 1202 Genève

HYBRID ZOOM

[ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

<https://lnkd.in/ejWPAuXJ>

Every child's right to a nationality and identity

PREVENTING CHILDHOOD STATELESSNESS

Statelessness remains a significant challenge affecting millions worldwide. At the end of 2024, at least **4.4 million** were reported as stateless across 101 countries - with **children representing 44% of those affected.**

Discrimination, gaps in nationality laws, lack of safeguards for children who would otherwise be stateless, and inadequate birth registration systems remain key drivers of childhood statelessness.

The 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness provides key safeguards to prevent children from being born stateless. Broader accession to the Convention and its full and effective implementation are urgently needed.

This HRC side event will focus on one of the most effective strategies to end statelessness: ensuring that no child is born without a nationality.

The discussion will highlight the 1961 Convention's 65th anniversary, core safeguards and examine how these provisions can be effectively implemented in law and practice.

Bringing together key stakeholders - including governments and voices with lived experience - the event will showcase concrete good practices and promote multistakeholder action.

Held ahead of the HRC's Annual Discussion on the Rights of the Child, it will reaffirm that every child's right to a nationality and identity is fundamental - and achievable through stronger safeguards.

OPENING REMARKS

Ambassador Claudia Fuentes Julio, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in Geneva

PANEL

Professor Philip Jaffé, Vice Chair, United Nations Committee, on the Rights of the Child (**Moderator**)

Ms. Anna-Mari Wong Hämäläinen, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN Office in Geneva

Ms. Elizabeth Tan, Director, Division of International Protection and Solutions, UNHCR

Ms. Neha Gurung, Co-founder, Citizenship Affected People's Network (CAPN)

Hon. Sabrina Gahar, Chairperson, African Committee of Experts on Rights and Welfare of the Child

Ms. Patricia Coutinho, Programme Manager, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

FOR FURTHER INFO

<https://lnkd.in/ejHgdtnk>

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