

### Contents

- Statelessness Summer Course 2017
- Update on the situation of the Rohingya in Myanmar
- What's new: Publications, tools and resources
- What's new: Law and policy
- Announcements and events
- A day in the life of...

***A day in the life of...*** Davina Wadley, Coordinator of the Statelessness Network Asia Pacific (SNAP).

*“Currently there is limited collaboration and information sharing between civil society actors on lessons learned and strategies implemented to address statelessness in the Asia Pacific region. The Statelessness Network Asia Pacific aims to bridge this gap.”*

**Read the full interview in this month's “A day in the life of....” at the bottom of this bulletin.**

### Statelessness Summer Course 2017

The application deadline for the annual Summer Course on Statelessness, 15 April 2017, is coming closer and so the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion would like to invite anyone interested in joining the course to [please apply](#) before this deadline. This year's summer course, on its sixth year, will take place from 31 July - 4 August 2017 in Tilburg, The Netherlands. The course in first instance looks at statelessness globally, and draws participants from all regions of the world. In addition to providing participants with a basic understanding of nationality and statelessness, the course also offers the opportunity to deepen one's knowledge on a variety of issues, this year focussing on the topics of childhood statelessness, forced displacement, and discrimination. Participants are provided with new knowledge, new tools and additional skills to address statelessness and to enforce the right to nationality. The curriculum is taught by lecturers from a variety of backgrounds, both professionally and geographically. Please watch the promo video [here](#).



### Update on the situation of the Rohingya in Myanmar

Over the past weeks the UN has spoken out about the gross violations of human rights against the stateless Rohingya living in Myanmar. Ms. Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar made a [statement](#) at the [34th session of the Human Rights Council](#), where the situations of human rights in the Democratic Republic of Korea, Iran, Myanmar and Burundi were discussed. The UN Special Rapporteur [called](#) for prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into killings and other gross violations of human rights which have taken place in Myanmar in recent months. After weeks of negotiations, the United Nations Human Rights Council [passed a landmark resolution](#) ordering an independent, international fact-finding mission into allegations of gross human rights violations perpetrated in Myanmar and, in particular, Rakhine State, against the Rohingya. However, at the same time Myanmar army chief Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing [defended the military crackdown in Rakhine State](#), and has warned against the United Nations' investigative efforts in the country. He stated that the UN Human Rights Council's decision to send an international fact-finding mission is a threat to national security. Earlier this month, on March 15<sup>th</sup>, [China and Russia blocked](#) a short UN Security Council statement on Myanmar, after the 15-member body met to discuss the situation in

Rakhine State. Also this month, strict Buddhists [staged protests](#) against the government's proposal to give the Rohingya nationality. And Katherine Southwick wrote an article, [A turning point in the Rohingya crisis](#), providing an in-depth review of the harrowing situation faced by the Rohingya in Myanmar.

## What's new: Publications, tools and resources

[Born in the Americas: The Promise and Practice of Nationality Laws in Brazil, Chile, and Colombia](#): Juliana Vengoechea for the Open Society Justice Initiative has mapped and compared the nationality laws of Brazil, Chile and Colombia, in which nationality is generally granted to those born in the country's territory. She shows that in practice, many people in these countries struggle to obtain proof of citizenship and fully enjoy their citizenship rights, even leaving some persons stateless. More can information can also be found in [this blog post](#).



[UNHCR Good Practices Paper - Action 2: Ensuring that no child is born stateless](#): UNHCR's 'good practices papers' correspond to each one of the 10 Actions proposed in UNHCR's 'Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014 – 2024' (GAP). The papers include examples of how various stakeholders have addressed statelessness in various countries. Action 2 of the GAP calls on States to ensure that no child is born stateless, and aims to ensure that by 2024 all States have safeguards against childhood statelessness.

[The Extraordinary Statelessness of Deepan Budlakoti: The Erosion of Canadian Citizenship Through Citizenship Deprivation](#): This article by Daiva Stasiulis, discusses the implications of recent trends towards 'securisation' of nationality for nationality by exploring the case of Canadian-born Deepan Budlakoti, who at age 22 was informed that he was not Canadian.

[US State Department yearly country reports](#): The US Department of State has recently released its annual 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices', which cover individual, civil, political, and worker rights, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. The reports cover every country in the world, and the reports are submitted to the US Congress. The reports are based on information gathered by US embassies and consulates around the world, and are prepared by human rights officers at these US missions. Sources of data are civil society organisations, governments, and other sources. The country reports include countries with significant stateless populations, such as the DR and Nepal, and include sections on statelessness.

[Data Collection on Stateless Persons in Canada](#): The Canadian Centre on Statelessness issued this follow-up study to the 2012 UNHCR report Statelessness in the Canadian Context, investigating the statelessness data collection practices of Statistics Canada, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and the Canada Border Services Agency. Access to Information requests were submitted to these government agencies, and follow-up interviews with key government agency informants were conducted via telephone and email.

[Amnesty International Report 2016/2017](#): This report, which covers 159 countries, is titled 'The State of the World's Human Rights'. It contains information on statelessness, and places emphasis on some protracted situations in the Dominican Republic, with the Bidoon, and in Estonia, among others. The report shows concern of current trends among politicians, who 'wielding a toxic, dehumanizing "us vs them" rhetoric are creating a more divided and dangerous world'. The report also includes a section on the Rohingya, expressing concern about reports of unlawful killings, indiscriminate firing on civilians, rape and arbitrary arrests.

[UNHCR Mapping Statelessness in Austria report](#): UNHCR Austria recently launched this report, based on anecdotal evidence from UNHCR's efforts to solve individual situations of statelessness in the country, and its engagement with national stakeholders. Since statelessness in Austria has remained a considerably hidden issue, UNHCR undertook this research project to map the state of statelessness in the country.

[UNHCR Background Note on Gender Equality, Nationality Laws and Statelessness 2017](#): UNHCR issued its latest 'Background Note on gender equality, nationality laws, and statelessness' which provides up-to-date information as of 8 March 2017. Nationality laws which do not grant women equality with men in conferring nationality to their children are a cause of statelessness. Since 2012, UNHCR issues an annual background note on gender equality in legal provisions in nationality laws which relate to conferral of nationality to children.

[Handbook on Statelessness in the OSCE Area: International Standards and Good Practices](#): This handbook, developed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and UNHCR, explores the consequences of statelessness for individuals, states and societies. It also includes good practices and recommendations which aim to increase engagement and progress in addressing statelessness.

[UNHCR Briefing note on The Sustainable Development Goals and Addressing Statelessness](#): The aim of this document is to inform UNHCR staff about the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to UNHCR's statelessness mandate and the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years. It gives readers guidance on how UNHCR can contribute to the successful implementation of the SDGs, including through national planning processes which can help to achieve the goals of the #IBelong Campaign. The information in this document is also applicable to refugees who are also stateless.

[Rethinking the Concept of a "Durable Solution": Sahrawi Refugee Camps Four Decades On](#): This article by Carmen Gómez Martín, provides the readers with an in-depth exploration of the situation of the Sahrawi. The Sahrawi population fled the Spanish Sahara in 1975–1976 and subsequently lost Spanish nationality. The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic has never been recognised internationally, and for this reason, Saharan nationality is not accepted. As a result, Sahrawis have remained stateless, and many live in refugee camps.

[Heeding the Clarion Call in the Americas: The Quest to End Statelessness](#): Kristy Belton's article examines how UNHCR's Global Action Plan to End Statelessness has been implemented in the Americas, and also evaluates the region's progress towards the goal of eradicating statelessness by 2024 and perhaps becoming the first region to eradicate statelessness.

[Confronting statelessness with statistics](#): An online post on the Norwegian Refugee Council website about statistics' role for statelessness and specifically the counting of stateless communities in Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire.

## What's new: Law and policy

[ECtHR ruled against terror suspect over deprivation of British nationality](#): The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruled against a Sudanese man, known as K2, who challenged the deprivation of his British nationality. The man was born Sudanese and obtained his British nationality through naturalisation. He was suspected of having ties with Al-Shabaab terrorist group and of engaging in "terror related activities" after travelling to Somalia, assisted by extremists. He was deprived of his British nationality in 2010, which barred him from re-entering the UK. He challenged this deprivation under Articles 8 (right to private and family life) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The ECtHR found that even though deprivation of nationality can amount to a violation of Article 8, in this case it did not. The Court found the [deprivation](#) to be "in accordance with the law".

[Haitian Parliament Votes to accede to Statelessness Conventions](#): On March 22, Haiti's Parliament voted in favour of joining global efforts to end statelessness, and accede to the 1961 and 1954 Statelessness Conventions.

[Ecuador adopts a new Organic Law on Human Mobility](#): Ecuador has recently adopted a new Organic Law on Human Mobility. The law includes provisions that embody fundamental legal principles such as freedom of movement; de-criminalising irregular migration status; equality under the law and non-discrimination; the best interest of children and adolescents; the principle of *non-refoulement*; and the *pro persona* principle in the context of human mobility, which means that legal norms shall be carried out and interpreted in a way that would be 'most beneficial' to persons in the context of human mobility. The law also grants temporary resident status to persons recognised as refugees or stateless persons. After two years, their resident status can be renewed, or they can request permanent resident status. Furthermore, the law requires the General Directorate of Civil Registry and Identification to issue a national ID for people who are recognised as refugees or stateless persons. Finally, the law also establishes a statelessness determination procedure, and a facilitated

naturalisation procedure for stateless persons after residing in the country for two years. This makes Ecuador the first South American state to adopt these measures, which represent an important step towards the protection of the rights of stateless persons in the Americas and for complying with the provisions of the 2014 Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action.

**[Malaysian Court of Appeal rejects the claims of two Malaysia-born boys' seeking nationality](#)**: Malaysia's Court of Appeal has dismissed separate bids for Malaysian nationality by two boys born in Malaysia. The Court found that they failed to prove they were stateless or were unable to obtain nationality of other countries.

**[UN Human Rights Committee's review Serbia on its implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)**: During the review, the Committee Experts asked questions about discrimination, violence against women and girls, the appointment of the Ombudsman, prison conditions, religious communities, child labour, the rights of the Roma minority and internally displaced persons, political participation and the underrepresentation of national minorities, the independence of the judiciary, and the institutionalisation and the deprivation of legal capacity of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Experts were concerned about the practical application of the Statelessness Conventions.

**[Makonde celebrate acquiring nationality](#)**: In February, 1,176 Makonde were issued with Kenyan identity cards when they were officially declared the 43rd tribe of Kenya by President Kenyatta. This month, the Makonde [celebrated this milestone](#) they fought for, since in October 2016, members of the community marched for three days from Kwale to Statehouse Nairobi to meet the President and demand recognition as an official tribe and Kenyan nationality. The Makonde arrived from Mozambique in the 1930s to work for the British. Despite the cheerful mood in the celebratory event, [which was attended not only by members of the community but also by government officials](#), the Makonde sympathise with other Kenyan communities who remain stateless, since they understand the struggles brought by statelessness.

## Announcements and events

**[Workshop: The intersection between citizenship and identity—Contemporary processes of differentiation and exclusion](#)**: This workshop is a gathering opportunity for scholars who currently work in the field of identity and citizenship studies. The goal of the workshop is to host the intensive discussion of full papers on citizenship and identity, and to pave the way for future collaboration between scholars. Available places are limited. Interested individuals should submit abstract proposals of maximum 250 words. **Deadline: 3 April 2017.**

**[ISI Statelessness Summer Course 2017](#)**: Applications open for the Statelessness Summer Course in Tilburg 31 July – 4 August (see further up in this bulletin for more information or visit the website). **Deadline: 15 April 2017.**

**[Call for Essays on Citizenship and Territoriality](#)**: *Unsere Zeit* magazine is inviting students, scholars, and other interested individuals to submit essays on the relationship between citizenship and territoriality. **Deadline: 10 May 2017.**

**[Call for papers at Forced Migration Review, focus on Latin America and the Caribbean](#)**: *Forced Migration Review* is inviting academics, practitioners, and other experts to submit an article for their upcoming issue, which focuses on Latin America and the Caribbean which will look at what can be learned from the region's experience, and what are the current and potential challenges in the region that need to be addressed in order to protect internally displaced people, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people. Furthermore, the issue will also discuss how the region has been attempting to implement durable solutions. Maximum length of articles: 2,500 words. **Deadline: 5 June 2017.**

**['Visiting Scholar of Practice' at the Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, 2017-2018](#)**: The Centre for Refugee Studies of York University is accepting applications for a position as 'Visiting Scholar of Practice' for the 2017-2018 academic year. Applicants who have training in their field and work in the non-governmental and intergovernmental sectors related to forced migration (in Canada or abroad) and would like to be a scholar in residence for one year are welcome to apply. This position is meant to provide a space for the successful applicant to share his/her experience, network with other scholars, and participate in the life of the Centre. For information on further requirements please visit the website. **Deadline: 1 July 2017.**

**Davina Wadley**  
**Coordinator of the [Statelessness Network Asia Pacific \(SNAP\)](#)**



**What does your work in relation to statelessness in your region mostly focus on?**

SNAP is a recently formed civil society network with the goal of promoting collaboration and information sharing on addressing statelessness in Asia and the Pacific.

We will be coordinating the following activities in 2017 and 2018 with our members and partners:

- Webinars and social media engagement aimed at building knowledge and understanding on statelessness in Asia and the Pacific and strengthening the capacity of SNAP's members to address statelessness.
- Collaborating with SNAP's members on research and evidence-based advocacy projects aimed at finding solutions to statelessness in Asia and the Pacific.
- Engaging in global, regional and national advocacy opportunities with respect to the right to nationality and lessons learned by SNAP's members in addressing statelessness.

**Can you explain about your organisation; e.g. how and why did it come into existence, what do you hope to accomplish and what type of activities is your organisation involved in?**

Civil society actors are in a unique position to respond to the challenge of statelessness in Asia and the Pacific through civil society's existing direct engagement with stateless populations and decision makers. In fact, there are many examples across the region where civil society actors have successfully addressed statelessness for specific populations. Currently however, there is limited collaboration and information sharing between civil society actors on lessons learned and strategies implemented to address statelessness. SNAP aims to bridge this gap.

The decision to establish SNAP came about following discussions at the [Civil Society Retreat on Resolving Statelessness in Asia and the Pacific](#), co-hosted in Bangkok in June 2015 by UNHCR, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies of Mahidol University.

At the conclusion of the Retreat, a group of civil society actors formed SNAP's Organising Committee whose objective it was to drive further consultations and planning for establishing the new network.

The resulting objectives of SNAP respond directly to the gaps, challenges and opportunities identified by stakeholders during the consultations, and the results of the consultations are summarised in the [Summary Report: Consultations with Stakeholders by SNAP's Organising Committee](#).

SNAP's Organising Committee facilitated the [Conference on Addressing Statelessness in Asia and the Pacific](#), from 24 to 26 November 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with the aim of building and strengthening cooperation among civil society actors and our collective capacities to address statelessness.

A key outcome of the Conference was the launch of SNAP. SNAP's potential future activities and initiatives, as developed by SNAP's founding members are detailed in the [Summary Report](#) for the Conference.

**Could you describe a particular project you are working on right now?**

In addition to the finalising collaboration around SNAP's work plan for 2017 and 2018, we are currently engaged in the following activities:

- facilitating discussions between members as to lessons learned in developing and implementing paralegal projects aimed at mapping statelessness and assisting populations to acquire and confirm nationality
- connecting members working to address statelessness amongst cohorts of foreign spouses in Asia and the Pacific
- facilitating dialogue with members on methods for analyzing domestic nationality laws against international standards
- developing joint proposals to support research and evidence-based advocacy on the causes and consequences of childhood statelessness and the extent to which gender discrimination in nationality laws is a cause of statelessness in specific contexts

- collaborating with members on a joint submission on statelessness in Japan to the Human Rights Council at the 28th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

**How does your organisation engage with network building and could you say something about your recent contribution to the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion's World's Stateless Report?**

SNAP is a platform for its members to develop and carry out activities focused on addressing statelessness at the national, regional and global level. We actively engage with SNAP's members and partners to explore how SNAP can support existing and planned activities and then coordinate resourcing to support such activities. The inclusion of information on the launch of SNAP in the World's Stateless Report was a fantastic opportunity to bring exposure to SNAP's work and engage new members.

**What do you most enjoy about this work?**

The passion and commitment that members have for their work is continually inspiring and I am enjoying exploring and learning with members how we can best work together to support information sharing and collaboration. One of SNAP's strengths is the depth of expertise in SNAP's membership and leadership team bringing knowledge, commitment and experience from across Asia and the Pacific. This includes grassroots community-based organisations that support stateless populations to acquire and confirm nationality, national and regional NGOs that pursue strategic advocacy on the right to nationality, academics with expertise in law, sociology and political science, practicing lawyers that challenge administrative decisions that render individuals and populations stateless, and most importantly stateless persons and formerly stateless persons raising the voices of their communities.

Contribute to the Statelessness Monthly Bulletin via  
[news@InstituteSI.org](mailto:news@InstituteSI.org) or visit [www.InstituteSI.org](http://www.InstituteSI.org)