



NATIONALITY FOR ALL

# IMPACT REPORT



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# WHO WE ARE

NFA was formed from the work undertaken by the Statelessness Network Asia Pacific (SNAP) over four years to build a regional civil society movement on addressing statelessness in the region. In October 2020, SNAP transitioned from a project hosted by the Malaysian NGO – Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRRA) Malaysia to an organisation registered in Australia under the new name of Nationality for All (NFA).

Our mission is to promote the rights of all people affected by statelessness in the Asia-Pacific region – including the right to a nationality – through strategic and long-term partnerships.

We believe that persons with lived experience of statelessness should lead in determining how statelessness is addressed. NFA is committed to supporting the leadership and agency of persons with lived experience of statelessness by ensuring their meaningful participation in the planning, design, implementation and monitoring of our activities.

# MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Nationality for All (NFA) retains the legacy of Statelessness Network Asia Pacific (SNAP) but has gradually created an identity of its own. In the last three years, NFA completed its transition from a network of civil society organizations and coalitions to become a partner-based non-profit organization registered in Australia.

Initiatives to address statelessness and promote the right to nationality should be led by persons affected by it. However, because of the power imbalances between states, UN agencies, I/NGOs, grassroots and community organizations, and stateless-led or impacted persons' led organizations, affected persons' participation is minimal and tokenistic at best in the statelessness field. As a staunch feminist, I hope to contribute to creating a shift in the current power structure and facilitate the creation of more inclusive spaces for impacted persons to participate meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives.

I plan to instill feminist values and principles in the organization and work directly with impacted persons to fulfill the vision of the organization. Realizing that I will make mistakes along the way but unafraid to make them and learn from them, I hope to build the organization into a safe space for all stakeholders to have honest and at times difficult conversations, for us to collectively grow together and achieve the common goals.

Subin Mulmi  
Executive Director



# MEET OUR TEAM



**SUBIN MULMI**  
Executive Director



**SHUCHI PUROHIT**  
Research Co-ordinator



**MELINDA ANNE SHARLINI**  
Programme Co-ordinator



**KRITAGYA RAI**  
Programme Co-ordinator



**SUDIR SILWAL**  
Finance and Admin Co-ordinator



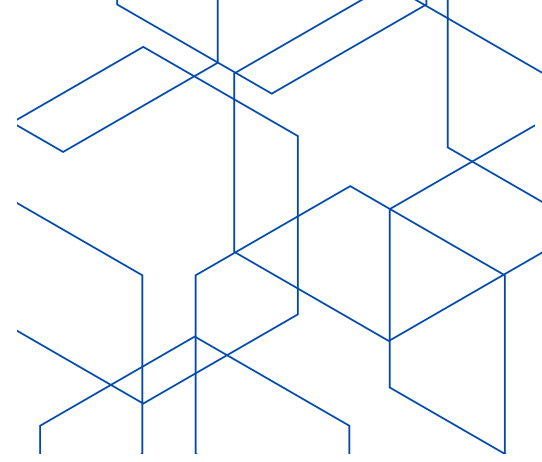
**PRASANNA NIRMAL ARYAL**  
Outreach Assistant

## OUR BOARD

**MITRA KHAKBAZ**  
**VIVIENNE CHEW**  
**LORETTA MCDONALD**



# OUR WORK AREAS



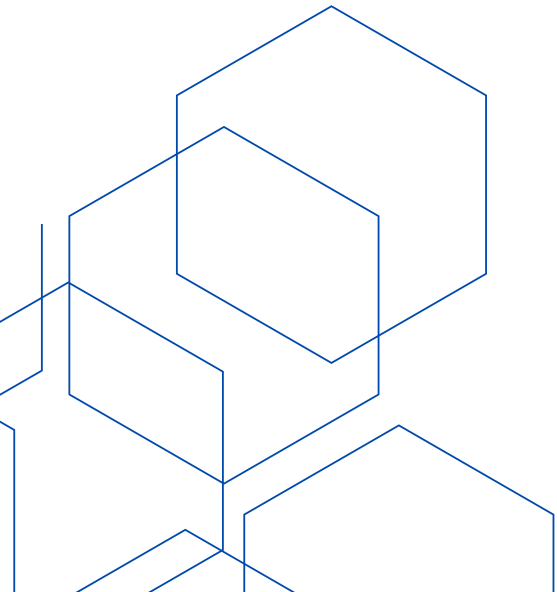
PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

COALITION BUILDING

WORLD CONFERENCE ON STATELESSNESS



# PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

## Workshop with FF on Social Media Advocacy

NFA and Family Frontiers organized an online workshop on Audio/Visual activism for affected mothers in Malaysia involved in the equal nationality rights movement on May 14 and 16, 2022. Deepti Gurung from Citizenship Affected People's Network shared her experience advocating for equal citizenship rights in Nepal. This workshop focused on types of digital campaigning and strategies for creating change through digital campaigns. More than 16 participants attended the workshop.

### Media Advocacy Strategy for FF

NFA prepared a media advocacy strategy document to support FF's media engagement. The document included information and contact details of different international media outlets. NFA also tried to connect some of them with FF and shared about FF's work with them.

## Strategic planning workshops virtual

- Strategic Planning Workshop with DAJI

NFA organized an online workshop to prepare the strategic plan of the Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI) on April 12 and 13, 2022. The workshop was designed to support the organization to be able to apply for multi-year funds. Ravi Hemadri who attended the workshop on behalf of DAJI shared the plans, aspirations, and challenges of the organization. Based on the inputs of Ravi, NFA prepared a draft strategic plan and shared it with DAJI. After the first draft, NFA organised an in-person workshop in 2023 to finalize the strategic plan.

- Strategic Planning Workshop with Council of Minorities (CoM)

NFA organized an online workshop to prepare the strategic plan of the Council of Minorities (CoM) on May 9 and 10, 2022. The workshop was designed to support the organization to be able to apply for multi-year funds. Khalid Hussain who attended the workshop on behalf of the Council of Minorities shared the plans, aspirations, and challenges of the organization. Based on the inputs Khalid, NFA prepared a draft strategic plan and shared it with CoM. After the first draft, NFA organised an in-person workshop in 2023 to finalize the strategic plan.

# INSTITUTIONAL INCUBATION

NFA has adapted the business incubation model which is a common practice in the business sphere to support start-ups. NFA provides this incubation service to new organizations that are led by persons with lived experience of statelessness. Currently, NFA is providing such service to Citizenship Affected People's Network (CAPN) in Nepal. This is time-bound support aimed at helping the organization grow and get to a position where they can scale themselves. NFA is assisting CAPN with

- Fundraising

NFA supported CAPN to prepare and submit fundraising proposals and also participated in interviews with the funders. Consequently, CAPN was able to three different funds through direct engagement of NFA.

- Management of emotional labor

Realizing the sensitivity of working with affected persons and the importance of preventing situations where affected persons have to relive their traumatic experiences, NFA stepped in whenever such situations arose. This included meetings with government officials, donors and international partners.

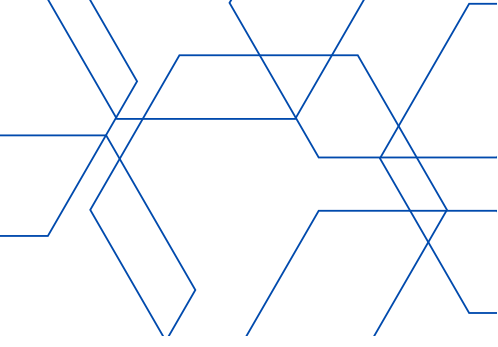
- Project Implementation

NFA supported CAPN to implement their ongoing projects by preparing their project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation plans. NFA also provided strategic advice and input to support the implementation of the programs.

- Operational Support

NFA undertook the day-to-day administrative responsibilities of the organization including hiring and mentoring of the staff members. NFA also supported the formation and adoption of organizational policies.





# STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOPS FOR CAPN

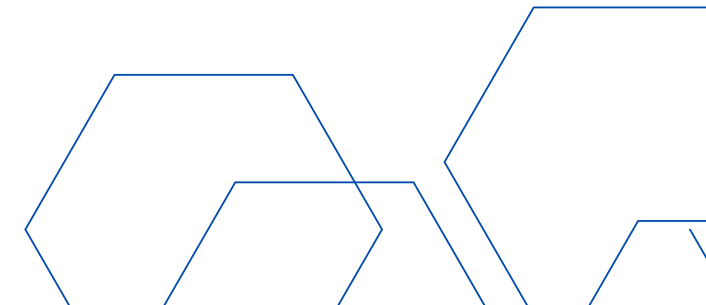
## Strategic Planning Workshop 2023

NFA organized a strategic planning workshop for CAPN on January 28 and 29, 2023. CAPN finalized its long-term and short-term goals during this workshop including discussions on fundraising, donor relations, and overall organizational growth, so that the organization can continue its work over time. This meeting provided a platform to discuss engagement strategies, partnerships, and outreach efforts.



## Strategic Planning Workshop 2023

NFA organized a strategic planning workshop for CAPN on April 10-11, 2023. This strategic planning workshop monitored CAPN's activities and progress to allow the organization to make informed decisions about whether to continue, modify, or discontinue certain strategies. CAPN outlined actionable steps to ensure that progress is being made while being aligned with the vision and mission of the organization.





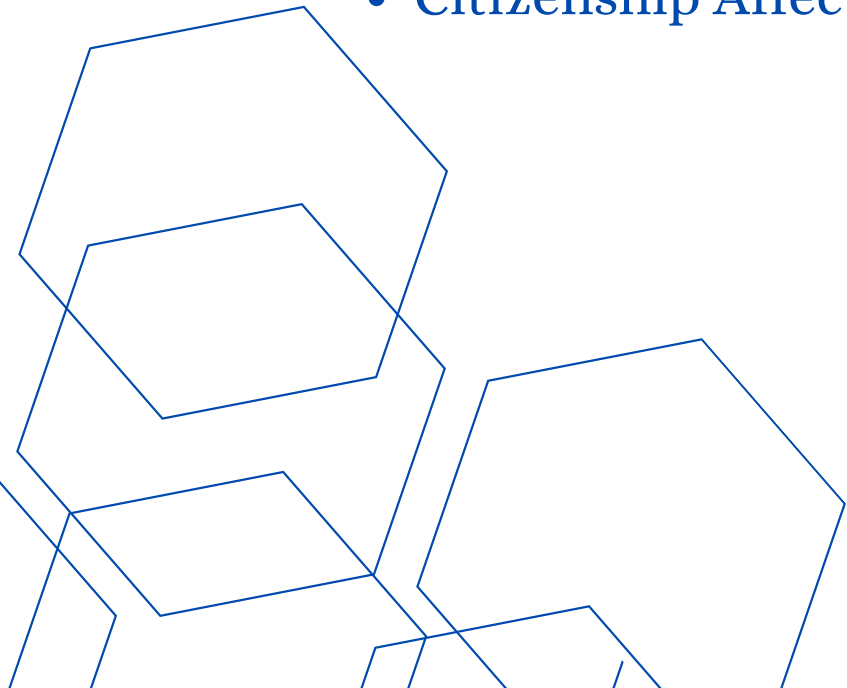
## Strategic Planning Workshop in Nepal

NFA organized a strategic planning meeting and advocacy workshop from 1-3 May 2023 for its national partners, particularly from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Malaysia. The event involved a series of interactive and collaborative activities aimed at engaging partners in critical reflections and conversations about their desired change, barriers, and strategies for achieving change.

- Family Frontiers (FF)
- Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI)
- Right to Nationality and Citizenship Network (RNCN)
- Council of Minorities (CoM)
- Citizenship Affected People's Network (CAPN)

## Draft Strategic Plans

NFA prepared draft strategic plans based on the inputs of the partners and shared them with the partners for review.





# KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

Across the statelessness sector the issue of the lack of accurate statistics and information is prominent. In numerous consultations and meetings held by NFA between 2020–22, the issue of a lack of data was raised by both NGOs and UN bodies as a key concern. This lack of reliable quantitative data continues to pose challenges to effectively addressing statelessness and advocating for solutions. This report aims to build knowledge and shed light on the Asia-Pacific which despite underreporting, reports the highest number of stateless people in the world.

The objective of preparing the report was to provide an overview of the statelessness situation in the Asia Pacific region. Generate more attention and advocacy on the statelessness problem in the region as well as Identify areas of collaboration among stakeholders and areas of further research on the issue.

In 2021 over 2.3 million stateless persons were reported to UNHCR by countries in the region. Between 2020 and 2021 the number of reported stateless persons in the Asia-Pacific region increased by over 150,000 people. Of the reported stateless population, 1.3 million persons are classified as in situ stateless persons, populations that have had multi-generational or long-term significant ties to their country of residence, with many having never left their country of birth. The largest population of in situ stateless people reside in states across Southeast Asia. Of the reported stateless population in the Asia-Pacific, just over 1 million (1,051,620) are stateless refugees.

Of the 38 states in the region, jus sanguinis provisions in 19 states provide that children born to a citizen parent gain citizenship, with no distinction based upon the location of their birth. Only five of the 38 countries in the Asia-Pacific have acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (‘1954 Convention’), and four of the 38 states to the Convention on the Reduction of Stateless Persons (‘1961 Convention’), whereas only three to both treaties. The citizenship laws of less than half of the states in the region 15 states explicitly provide that foundling children will be considered citizens. Thus, administrative barriers to accessing citizenship have rendered a vast number of populations stateless or with uncertain nationality statuses even in states across the Asia-Pacific

# SEAP

STATELESSNESS ENCYCLOPEDIA ASIA PACIFIC



Comprehensive Mapping of  
Statelessness in the Asia Pacific

Originally planned as an internal research project to inform NFA’s early organizational development and strategic planning, it was determined that the research should be made public and accessible. In 2022, NFA expanded on the internal mapping and sub-regional data gathered for its previous research and developed SEAP.

## Studies on India and Bangladesh

- Legal validity of the NRC process and its effects on statelessness:

NFA is conducting this study in collaboration with Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI). This study aims to analyze the legal validity of the NRC process, the detention of ‘foreigners’ and deportation of declared foreigners; along with the impact of the process on putting people at risk of statelessness or making people stateless in Assam.

- Right to nationality and the risk of statelessness faced by the Urdu-speaking community in Bangladesh.

This study has been conducted in collaboration with the Council of Minorities (COM) and Shahriar Saadat. The study aims to understand whether the Bangladeshi government has adequately protected the right to nationality of the Urdu-speaking community through a review of the laws, policies, and other studies on the issue. The research also aims to analyze the statelessness status of the Urdu-speaking communities.

## COVID-19 Impact study

This study aims to examine the impact of COVID-19 on stateless people and the measures taken by the government to reduce those impacts. The study covers the impact of COVID-19 on stateless people in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, and Nepal.



On May 4, 2023 NFA launched the SEAP report with the launch of the SEAP report, NFA seeks to catalyze a transformative shift in the global discourse on statelessness. By shedding light on the root causes, systemic barriers, and persistent gaps in addressing this pressing issue, the report aims to mobilize concerted efforts and inspire collaborative action at every level.

SEAP report serves as a compass, guiding policymakers, advocates, and practitioners toward sustainable solutions that prioritize the rights, protection, and dignity of stateless individuals. NFA is now working on a website that reflects the findings of the report and is accessible to everyone.



# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## UPR Submissions

NFA is involved in preparing submissions for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in collaboration with various other organizations and institutes. These UPR submissions constitute a significant part of NFA's meaningful work and valuable contributions to the cause.

- **India**

NFA collaborated with ISI and minority rights group international to prepare the submission for India on statelessness in the 4th cycle of UPR on 7th -18th November 2022

- **Pakistan**

NFA collaborated with ISI, Musawi, and Imkaan Welfare Organization to prepare the submission for Pakistan on statelessness in the 4th cycle of UPR on 23rd January- 3rd February 2023.

- **Bangladesh**

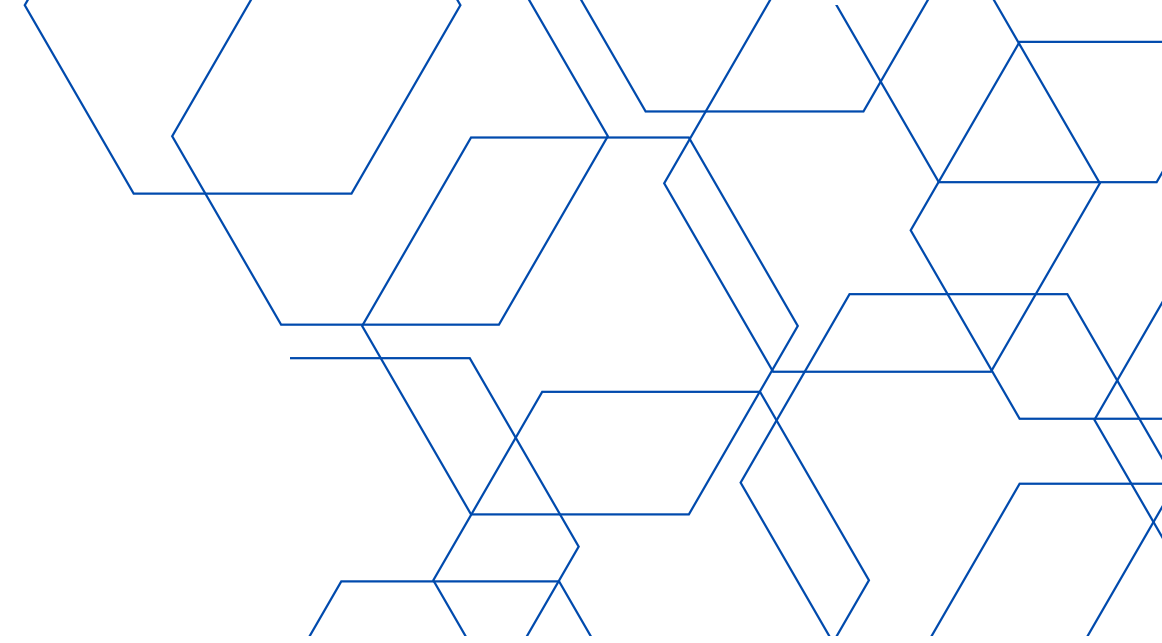
NFA collaborated with GCENR, Council of Minorities, NAMATI, ISI, Rohingya Human Rights Initiative, and free Rohingya coalition to prepare a submission for Bangladesh on statelessness in the 4th cycle of UPR on 6th-17th November 2023

- **Malaysia**

NFA collaborated with Advocates for Non-discrimination and Access to Knowledge (ANAK), Association of Family Support & Welfare Selangor & KL (Family Frontiers), Borneo Komrad, Buku Jalanan Chow Kit, Yayasan Chow Kit, Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRRA) Malaysia, Elom Initiatives (Elom), Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), and Lawyers for Liberty to prepare submission for Malaysia on statelessness in the 4th cycle of UPR from January-February 2023

- **Republic of Korea**

NFA collaborated with Duroo Association of Public Lawyers, GongGam Human Rights Law Foundation and Dr. Chulhyo Kim to make a joint submission for Republic of Korea on statelessness in the 4th cycle of the UPR on 14th July 2022.



## Submissions to Special Rapporteurs

- **Gender-based violence**

NFA collaborated with GCENR, Al Rawnak Organization for Women and Children, Arab Women Organization, Bahrain Women Union, Church Aid Incorporated, Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTDA), Equality Bahamas, Equality Now, Family Frontiers, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), Iraqi Women's League, and Youth Sustainable Development Centre (YSDC) on May 15, 2023 to submit to UN special rapporteur on the violence against women and girls: Report on the [Nexus between Violence against Women and Girls \(VAWG\), Nationality Laws, and Statelessness.](#)

- **Racism and xenophobia**

NFA contributed to the GCENR Submission to UN Special Rapporteur on Racism: Links between Gender Discrimination in Nationality Laws and Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

## Submission of the NGO Statement on Statelessness to UNHCR

NFA in collaboration with ISI and GCENR submitted the NGO Statement on Statelessness to UNHCR for the 87th Standing Committee meeting of UNHCR. The statement was read at the meeting on June 14, 2023.

- **Human Rights Council Resolution on Nationality Rights**

- **Reviewed the Zero Draft on behalf of the Civil Society**

NFA along with ISI, GCENR, and Equality Now contributed to reviewing the zero draft of the Human Rights Council Resolution on Nationality Rights (insert link of the resolution)

- **Participated in the Informal Consultations on the Human Rights Council Resolution on Nationality Rights**

NFA also participated in the information consultations held on June 28 and July 3, 2023 to share the comments on behalf of the civil society.





## REGIONAL

In the last two years, NFA has undertaken an extensive exercise of conducting a mapping of stakeholders and holding consultations with them to identify the methods and approaches to attain this aim. UNHCR Regional Bureau Asia Pacific and NFA conducted a regional consultation with civil society organizations (CSOs) working on statelessness and the right to nationality in April 2022 and asked the participants to fill out a survey. Based on the findings of the bilateral consultations, survey findings of the regional consultation, and building on the learnings of NFA's work as Statelessness Network Asia Pacific (SNAP), NFA decided to facilitate the creation and then coordinate the operation of a regional coalition on statelessness.

In order to undertake the formation of the regional coalition, NFA undertook a risk assessment process. As part of this, NFA created an Advisory Group for the formation process comprising the experts, and had bilateral consultations with each of them.

Based on the interest expressed by participants of the 2022 Asia Pacific Regional Consultations in the post-event survey and the subsequent bilateral meetings with NFA, NFA short-listed around 20 CSOs as potential members of the regional coalition and organized consultations with them.

# COALITION BUILDING

## Regional CSO Consultation 2022

NFA organized a regional CSO Consultation on Forming a Regional Coalition inviting interested CSOs and the Advisory Group members on November 2 and 3, 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. 18 CSO representatives and 7 Advisory Group members attended the event.

The two-day consultation event yielded diverse outcomes, notably identifying the key focus areas for the Regional Coalition. These encompassed a strong emphasis on data collection, knowledge enhancement, and a suite of initiatives spanning research, bolstering CSO capacities, raising awareness, and swift-response services. Additionally, the recognition of human rights advocacy, coupled with engagement with UN agencies and governmental bodies, showcased a more comprehensive strategic outlook.

Subsequent stages of action were also discussed. These included establishing an email group for Alliance members and conducting substantive one-on-one consultations with former SNAP Board members. Advancing the process, a virtual meeting convened Advisory Group members, fostering shared insights. Critical documents were formulated and disseminated, comprising option papers addressing coalition structure, thematic priorities, and activities. This process entailed soliciting input from CSOs and Advisory Group participants, ensuring resonance with stakeholders. The culmination transpired through an in-person consultation, encompassing discourse on the Option Papers, supplemented by sessions focusing on Self-Care and the potential inclusion of government representatives to share exemplary practices.

## Options Papers

The Consultation concluded that the NFA would prepare three Options Papers outlining the Structure, Thematic Focus, and Activities of the Regional Coalition. These papers were shared for feedback among coalition members prior to the upcoming CSO in-person meeting. The papers highlighted parallels and potential approaches for the Coalition, grounded in a thorough analysis of existing networks like the Global Movement on Statelessness, European Network on Statelessness (ENS), Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), Global Alliance to End Statelessness, and Asia Pacific Trans Network (APTN). Through careful analysis of these network's structure, activities, vision, mission, values, and central functions, shared principles emerged to guide the Regional Coalition's conceptualization.

### Regional Coalition General Meeting

As of July 27, 2023, there have been two general meetings of the Regional Coalition organized virtually. During the second meeting, the Regional Coalition was officially re-named as the "Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition (SDCC) Asia-Pacific." In these meetings, the working groups shared their updates and discussed any pressing issues.

### Regional CSO Consultation 2023

On May 4 and 5, 2023, NFA organized a CSO Consultation in Kathmandu, Nepal to form a Regional Coalition on Statelessness in the Asia Pacific. This consultation was built on the previous consultation held in Bangkok. During the two-day consultation, the participants discussed the options papers and decided to divide the work among themselves through three different working groups - Name, Values and Principles Working Group (NVPWG); Structure Working Group (SWG); and Activities Working Group (AWG). These three groups were to convene virtually to make decisions regarding the coalition's name, values, structure, and scope of its activities which would later be discussed with the broader group in the first General meeting on June 22, 2023

### Working Group Meetings

A decision on the interim structure of the coalition, designating NFA as the secretariat and forming three distinct working groups was made during the CSO consultation.

#### 1) Name, Values, and Principles (NVP)

This group worked to finalize the name of the coalition and the value and principles that the coalition would abide by. This group met virtually on May 25 and July 19, 2023.

#### 2) Structure Working Group (SWG)

This group worked to finalize the overall structure and the objective of the coalition. This group convened virtually on June 1, June 7, June 21, July 27, and August 8, 2023

#### 3) Activities Working Group (AWG)

This group worked to finalize the activities of the coalition. The group convened virtually on May 25, June 16, and July 13, 2023





## **Global Movement Against Statelessness**

NFA is a member of the Interim Core Group (ICG) of the Global Movement Against Statelessness and a member of the Solidarity and Action Working Group (SAWG).

### **ICG Retreat in Nepal**

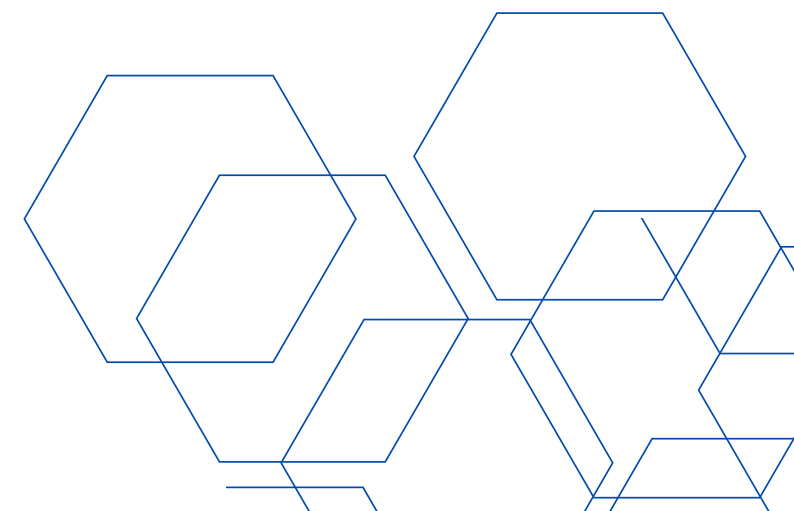
NFA organized a four-day retreat from 25-28 April 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal for the ICG of the Global Movement Against Statelessness. The retreat was a valuable experience, as the group had previously worked together in a virtual setting for two years, and this was their first in-person meeting.

## **Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR)**

NFA is a part of the Capacity Building Working Group of GCENR and has helped organize two different sessions with affected mothers and civil society organizations.

### **Global Alliance to End Statelessness**

NFA's Executive Director, Subin Mulmi is a member of the Taskforce of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, a UNHCR-led initiative. Representing NFA, Subin has been participating in the virtual and in-person meetings of the Taskforce in determining the structure, activities and goals of the Global Alliance.



# WORLD CONFERENCE ON STATELESSNESS

The next World Conference on Statelessness will be held from 26-29 February 2024 at Taylor's University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Organized by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), Nationality for All (NFA) and Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRRA) Malaysia, the conference will bring together 300+ participants with lived and learned experience of statelessness from across the globe to exchange knowledge, perspectives, ideas and skills.

The programme will focus on the three themes of Solidarity, Knowledge and Change and will be consultatively developed to respond to the interests and needs of the field. By bringing together advocates, activists, academics, artists, community and social leaders, members of the donor community, UN and government representatives, in a safe and equal space, the conference will inspire, inform and invigorate efforts to achieve positive change.

The 2024 World Conference on Statelessness will be a multi-stakeholder convening that centres people with lived experience of statelessness and offers sessions in a wide variety of formats to facilitate storytelling & peer-learning, reflection & celebration, brainstorming & ideas-testing, and networking & relationship-building



**20 WORLD CONFERENCE  
24 ON STATELESSNESS**  
SOLIDARITY . KNOWLEDGE . CHANGE

**26-29  
February  
2024**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



