



NATIONALITY FOR ALL
Advancing the right to a nationality in the Asia-Pacific region

Impact Report

2023

Message from our Executive Director

NFA has completed three years of operation. In the last three years, NFA has evolved from a start-up NGO to a key actor in statelessness in the region and the world. Our network has expanded significantly and we have tangible resources to show for it. From a team of two persons in early 2021, we now have six full-time (three of them are working 80%) staff members, and one part-time staff member. One of our staff members is a person with lived experience.

Our work has also created a substantial impact at the national, regional, and global levels in terms of changes in law and policies related to nationality rights and statelessness. We can definitively assert that NFA has come out of the shadows of SNAP and has established our new identity as the leading organization working on statelessness in the Asia Pacific. This also resulted in strong recommendations by the international community to address statelessness in the UPR process.

Our support to our partners in Nepal and Malaysia resulted in genuine political will to amend the gender-discriminatory nationality laws. In Nepal, thousands of stateless persons were able to acquire Nepali citizenship.

Through our partnership-building program, we have been able to raise funds for our partners and generate more resources in general on statelessness. We supported them in drafting their strategic plans for them to share with their funders.



Subin Mulmi
Executive Director

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.

Our Board Members



Mitra
Khakbaz



Vivienne
Chew



Christoph
Sperfeldt

Meet Our Team



Subin Mulmi
Executive Director



Kritagya Rai
Programme Co-ordinator



Melinda Anne Sharlini
Programme Co-ordinator



Shuchi Purohit
Research Co-ordinator



Sudir Silwal
Finance & Admin Co-ordinator



Prasanna Nirmal Aryal
Outreach Assistant



Mallika Balami
Communication Officer



Our Work



Partnership Building



Knowledge Building



World Conference on Statelessness 2024



Human Rights Advocacy



Coalition Building

Key Highlights of 2023

Launch of the Statelessness Encyclopedia Asia Pacific (SEAP) Report

Strategic Planning Workshop with NFA's Partners

Formation of the Regional Coalition on Statelessness

Endorsement of the Joint Statement to call for Ceasefire in Palestine

Participation in the Global Refugee Forum on Statelessness, 2023

Pledge to address statelessness in the Asia Pacific

Completion of the Incubation program of CAPN Nepal

Partnership Building

Council of Minorities (CoM)

NFA has been collaborating with Bangladesh's Council of Minorities to help them develop their strategic strategy and their advocacy roadmap. Additionally, NFA is conducting a study on the situation of the Urdu-speaking community in Bangladesh.

Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI)

NFA has been working with DAJI in India to assist them in drafting their strategic planning and their advocacy roadmap. NFA is also conducting a study on the legal validity of the National Register of Citizens and its impact in Assam.

Family Frontiers (FF)

NFA has been working with Family Frontiers (FF) to support the drafting process of their strategic plan. The purpose is to collectively finalize the strategic plan and support to raise funds for the organization.

Citizenship Affected People's Network (CAPN)

NFA completed its incubation of CAPN in 2023. Our incubation support included assisting the organization in fundraising, project management, operation support and strategic planning.

Knowledge Building

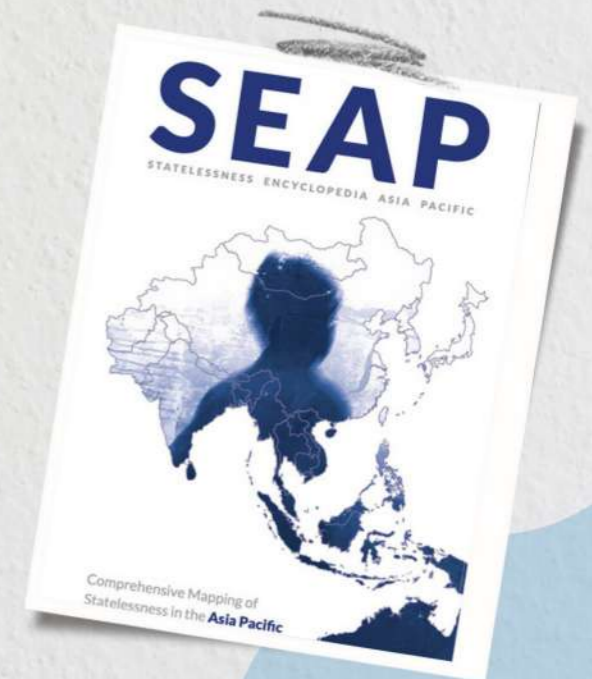


Launch of Statelessness Encyclopedia Asia Pacific Report Version I

On May 4, 2023, the first phase of the Statelessness Encyclopedia Asia Pacific (SEAP) report was launched. The report provides a comprehensive picture of the statelessness situation in Asia Pacific. The aim of this report is to analyze statelessness in the Asia-Pacific, scrutinize legal frameworks, address gaps between theory and practice, raise awareness, broaden the stakeholder network, pinpoint best practices, and identify organizational needs, and gaps. It includes a regional and sub-regional overview of statelessness in the region and provides information on the laws related to citizenship, the population affected by statelessness, the causes of statelessness, and the stakeholders working to address statelessness in the region.

Statelessness Encyclopedia Asia Pacific Report Version II

This is the continuation of the first phase of the Statelessness Encyclopedia Asia Pacific Report launched in May 2023. The second version includes country factsheets of all the countries in the region, the sub-regional overview of Central Asia, information on birth registration and its correlation to statelessness, and the human rights treaty body recommendations on statelessness to each country. The report is going to be launched on February 26, 2024, during the World Conference on Statelessness.



Other Studies

Report on 'Impact of COVID-19 on Statelessness in the Asia Pacific'

This study intends to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on stateless individuals and the government's efforts to mitigate those effects. The report examines COVID-19's impact on stateless individuals in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, and Nepal. The study will be launched during the World Conference on Statelessness.

Legal validity of the NRC process and its effects on statelessness (forthcoming)

NFA is conducting this study in collaboration with Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI). India is a party to several human rights treaties that obligate India to protect each person's right to acquire a nationality. The NRC process has put a significant number of people at risk of statelessness. 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 (forthcoming)

NFA, in collaboration with DAJI, is conducting a study on the legality of the NRC procedure in Assam, focusing on the detention and deportation of declared foreigners. The study also evaluates the process's impact on individuals at risk of statelessness. It is currently in the finalization stage.

Human Rights Advocacy

UPR Submission

NFA collaborates with diverse organizations and institutes to compile submissions for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). These contributions to the UPR process form a substantial portion of NFA's meaningful efforts and valuable contributions to the cause.

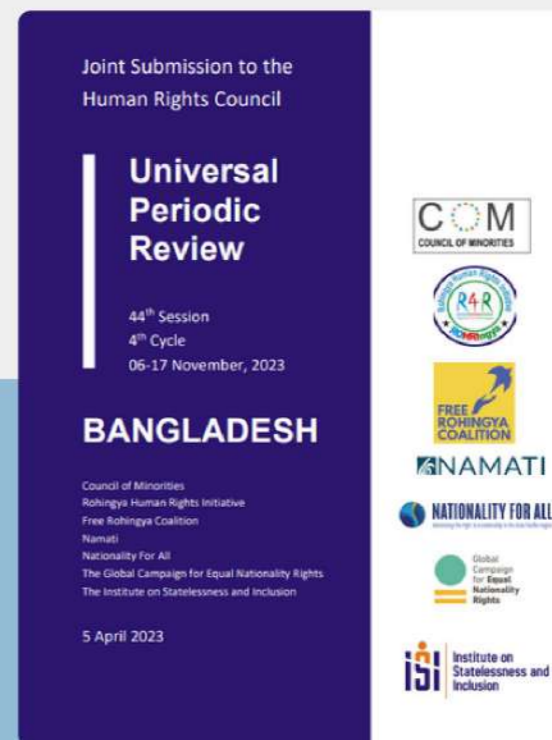


Cambodia

NFA collaborated with Women Peace Makers Cambodia, Gender and Development for Cambodia, and Khmer Community Development (KCD), to prepare the joint submission to the Fourth Cycle of Universal Periodic Review on the right to nationality and human rights challenges pertaining to statelessness in Cambodia.

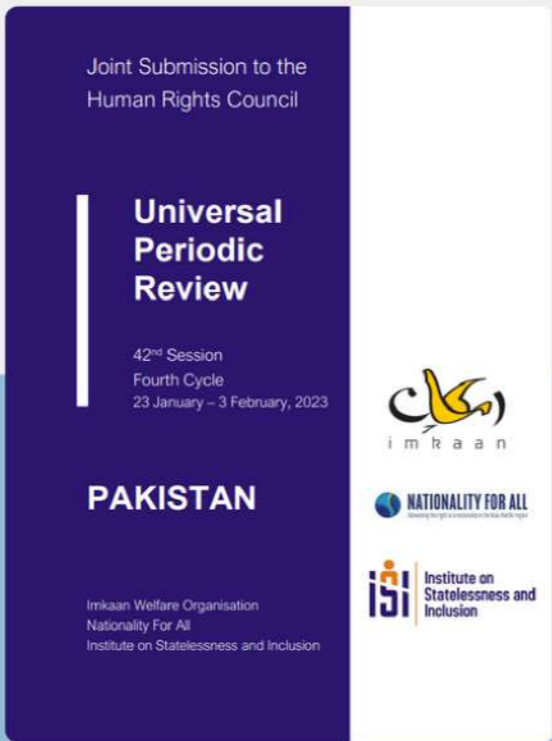
Malaysia

NFA worked in collaboration 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 compile a submission for Malaysia on statelessness in the 4th cycle of UPR.



Bangladesh

NFA collaborated with GCENR, Council of Minorities, NAMATI, ISI, Rohingya Human Rights Initiative, and Free Rohingya Coalition to submit a report for Bangladesh on statelessness, in the 4th cycle of UPR.



Pakistan

NFA worked together with ISI, Musawi, and Imkaan Welfare Organization to prepare the submission for Pakistan on statelessness in the 3rd cycle of UPR, to the Human Rights Council.

Submission to Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls

NFA collaborated with various organizations, including GCENR, Al Rawnak Organization for Women and Children, Arab Women Organization, Bahrain Women Union, Church Aid Incorporated, CRTDA, Equality Bahamas, Equality Now, Family Frontiers, ISI, Iraqi Women’s League, and YSDC, to submit a report on the nexus between Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Nationality Laws, and Statelessness to the UN Special Rapporteur.



Coalition building

The NFA has played diverse roles in establishing four distinct coalitions focused on issues related to statelessness and the rights associated with nationality.

Regional CSO Consultation 2023

To discuss the options paper on the structure, activities, name and values, we organized an in-person meeting of the Coalition Founding Members in Nepal. After the meeting, interim working groups were formed to take forward the work of the coalition. Since then the working groups have convened virtually to discuss the different components of the coalition.

General Meeting of the Regional Coalition

After the in-person meeting, three virtual general meetings of the Coalition have been held. The second meeting finalized the name of the coalition as 'Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition Asia-Pacific (SDCC - AP). In the final meeting of 2023, the structure of the Coalition was discussed. This will be finalized in 2024.

The Official Launch of SDCC

The SDCC will be officially launched during the World Conference on Statelessness which will be taking place from February 26, 2024 at Malaysia.

Global Movement Against Statelessness

NFA is a member of the Interim Core Group (ICG) within the Global Movement Against Statelessness. It actively participated in the Solidarity and Action Working Group (SAWG) within the Movement. Over the preceding two years, NFA collaborated with both ICG and Advisory Committee (AC) members to establish a global community of Civil Society Actors dedicated to addressing statelessness. Furthermore, NFA played a crucial role in organizing the inaugural in-person meeting of the ICG in Nepal in April 2023.

Global Alliance to End Statelessness

NFA is a member of the Taskforce of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness. The Global Alliance to End Statelessness was a new initiative that sought to accelerate solutions to statelessness by 2030 through a collective multi-stakeholder approach, emphasizing and respecting the experiences of those who were stateless and formerly stateless.

Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR) Capacity Building Working Group

NFA is part of GCENR's Capacity Building Working Group and actively engaged in the Global Summit on Gender Equal Nationality Rights held in Geneva in 2023. Additionally, NFA has been working towards establishing a virtual safe space for individuals affected by these issues.

World Conference on Statelessness 2024

The World Conference on Statelessness will be held from February 26–29, 2024, at Taylor’s University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Coordinated by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), Nationality for All (NFA), and Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRRA) Malaysia, the event will assemble over 300 participants with both lived and learned experiences of statelessness worldwide.



The program, centered around the themes of Solidarity, Knowledge, and Change, will be collaboratively developed to address the interests and needs of the field. Through the participation of advocates, activists, academics, artists, community and social leaders, donor community members, and UN and government representatives in an inclusive environment, the conference aims to inspire, inform, and energize efforts for positive change.



**26-29
February
2024**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Events Organized

Retreat of the Interim Core Group of the Global Movement Against Statelessness

NFA co-organized a four-day retreat from April 25 to 28, 2023 of the Interim Core Group (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. Collaboratively, the group established a set of values and principles for the movement's future, while also engaging in productive discussions on key topics such as fundraising strategies and risk management.

Strategic Planning Workshop with Partners

On May 1 and 2, 2023, we co-organized a two-day strategic planning workshop with ISI for our four partner organizations - DAJI, Council of Minorities, CAPN and Family Frontiers. In the two days, we facilitated sessions to allow our partners to work on their long-term strategies, and also to understand how to deal with competing priorities.

Online Convening for Affected Mothers (Safe Space)

NFA helped organize the online convening for affected mothers organized by GCENR CBWG. The convening was attended by affected mothers from Nepal, Malaysia, and the MENA region. The aim of the convening was to create a safe space for affected mothers to build solidarity and support.

CSO Consultation on the Formation of the Regional Coalition on Statelessness

NFA organized the second in-person consultation on the formation of a regional coalition of CSOs on statelessness in Asia Pacific. Organizations from twelve countries attended the event in Nepal held on May 4 and 5, 2023. In the two-day program, the participants discussed the options papers on the Principles and Values; Structure and Activities. After intense discussions, it was decided to form three different interim Working Groups to propose the Name, Values and Principles; Structure and Modality; and the Activities of the Coalition.

Session on 'Ensuring inclusive digital IDs in the Asia Pacific'

NFA organized and facilitated a session on “Ensuring inclusive digital IDs in the Asia Pacific” on June 6, 2023 at the Rights Con 2023, in Costa Rica. The discussion was aimed at sharing the role played by technology in the humanitarian space today, and specifically to understand its impact on statelessness. NFA invited CSO’s from 3 different jurisdictions, Pakistan, Nepal, and Malaysia, to discuss various strategies that stakeholders have used to engage with governments and private bodies to protect privacy, bring further transparency and accountability in design and implementation of Digital ID systems.

Internal Strategic Planning Workshop

On September 5th to 8th, 2023, NFA organized an internal strategic planning workshop. In the Four-Days, each team member of NFA worked on a three-year roadmap of the organization's work. We also worked on NFA's Theory of Change. We are in the process of finalizing the three-year plan.

GRF Linked Event on Statelessness

NFA co-sponsored a Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Linked event 'Multi-stakeholder Approaches to Ending Statelessness' at the margins of the Global Refugee Forum 2023 on December 12, 2023 in Geneva. In the first segment of the event, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, Cate Blanchett interviewed two affected activists - Noor Azizah and Neha Gurung. In the second segment, Aleksejs Ivashuk (Apatride Network) moderated a panel discussion with four esteemed panelists - Christiana Bukalo (Statefree e.V.), Kristine Leilani R Salle (Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines), Patrick Eba (Deputy Director of UNHCR's Division of International Protection), and Adriana Quinones (Head of Human Rights and Development, UN Women Geneva Office).

NFA's Pledge to Address Statelessness

NFA submitted the Pledge to address Statelessness during the Global Refugee Forum Linked Event "Multi-stakeholders Approaches to Ending Statelessness", which was co-sponsored by NFA, on December 12, 2023 in Geneva.

Workshop on Mindfulness and Organizational development

NFA co-organized a two-day workshop, facilitated by Ruwanthie de Chickera and Amal de Chickera, Co-Director of the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) in Nepal. The first session, led by Ruwanthie on December 19, 2023, focused on mindfulness and team-building, engaging participants in exercises to enhance unity.

On December 20, Amal de Chickera conducted a workshop on organizational development, exploring ISI's history. NFA and CAPN shared their journeys and collaborative efforts. Amal provided valuable insights on scaling organizations, guiding both teams through the transition from startup to a sustainable NGO.



Strategic Planning Consultation

On December 22, 2023, NFA conducted a strategic consultation with Amal de Chickera, Co-Director of the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion.

The session involved presenting our three-year Strategic Plan to the entire team, followed by interactive exercises facilitated by Amal. These exercises aimed to gather perspectives from the NFA team regarding organizational growth and collaboratively outline cohesive actions and outcomes for NFA's future.

NFA's Participation in Events

Participation in the Meeting of the Global Alliance Taskforce

NFA's ED, Subin Mulmi participated in the in-person meeting of the Taskforce of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness in London from May 23 to 24, 2023. The Taskforce discussed the next steps of the formation of the Global Alliance.

Rights Con 2023

NFA's Research Coordinator, Shuchi Purohit attended the Rights Con 2023 from June 5 - 8, 2023. Shuchi represents NFA in the Digital ID Coalition and participated in the meeting of the Coalition as well in addition to attending the different sessions at the event.

Global Summit on Achieving Gender Equal Nationality Rights

NFA's Executive Director, Subin Mulmi, Program Coordinator, Melinda Anne Sharlini, and Outreach Assistant, attended the Global Summit on Achieving Gender Equal Nationality Rights on June 13, 2023. The summit was organized by the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights in collaboration with UNICEF, UNHCR, and UN Women, the summit united stakeholders to address gender inequality in nationality laws. Government officials, representatives from civil society organizations, experts, activists, and advocates dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's rights were in attendance. Following the summit, the GCENR held the Global Civil Society Workshop from June 14 - 16, which provided a platform for civil society leaders to collaborate and strategize on advancing gender-equal nationality rights globally through discussions, presentations, and interactive sessions.

Informal consultations on the Human Rights Council Resolution on Nationality Rights

NFA's ED, Subin Mulmi participated in the informal consultations on the Human Rights Council Resolution on Nationality Rights, held on June 28 2023, as part of the HRC session representing the civil society organizations. The civil society coalition that NFA is a part of, shared our concerns on the draft and submitted written comments after the consultation.

9th Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights

NFA participated in the 9th Asia Pacific Consultation on Refugee Rights, held in Bangkok from 12th - 13th September, 2023. During the event the AGM in a closed session introduced and welcomed the new steering committee of APRRN. The event discussed APRRN's advocacy priorities for the next three years, emphasizing the importance of collective engagement for refugee rights, and touched on enhancing diversity and inclusion within APRRN.

UNHCR Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation

From September 14-15, 2023, NFA's Program Coordinator, Kritagya Rai, represented NFA at the UNHCR Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation in Bangkok, Thailand. Discussions focused on advocating for inclusion, integrating international laws into national systems, and prioritizing refugee-led participation. The session emphasized refugee access to conferences and international advocacy, highlighting the importance of amplifying refugee voices and promoting their rights.

Inaugural conference of the Refugee Communities Association of Australia

On September 20 and 21, 2023, NFA's Executive Director, Subin Mulmi, participated in the inaugural conference of the Refugee Communities Association of Australia held in Melbourne, Australia. As a panelist in the 'Settlement and Service Delivery' session, Subin shared insights on good practices of resettlement and settlement that Australia can learn from. He highlighted the significance of meaningful consultations with refugees in discussions related to settlement and service delivery.

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2023

NFA's Research Coordinator, Shuchi Purohit participated in the 18th convening of Internet Governance Forum IGF, which took place in Kyoto from 8-12 October. Our Research Coordinator, Shuchi Purohit, contributed to discussions on the adverse effects of Digital ID on minorities, particularly stateless communities in Asia Pacific. As a part of our coalition of Digital ID and Human Rights, we actively participated in the first public session, presenting our coalition's work on multilateralism and legislation mapping for Digital ID systems. The session underscored concerns about the inadequate implementation of Digital ID systems, emphasizing the potential risks and repercussions for vulnerable minorities in the digital era.

Southeast Asian Senior officials Round table

NFA's Executive Director, Subin Mulmi participated in the Southeast Asian Senior Officials' Roundtable on Civil Registration, Legal Identity Documentation, and the Prevention of Statelessness on October 25, 2023, as an observer. The government representatives shared good practices for resolving statelessness in their respective countries and discussed collective approaches to addressing the causes of statelessness in the region.

Launch of the Bali Process Toolkit for Inclusive Civil Registration

NFA Executive Director, Subin Mulmi, participated in the launch of the Bali Process Toolkit for Inclusive Civil Registration, as a panelist on the discussion moderated by Devmi Dampella from RSO. The panelists discussed the challenges faced by hard to reach marginalized groups in accessing civil registration systems.

Pre-session of Malaysia's UPR submission

Our Programme Coordinator, Melinda Anne Sharlini, attended the pre-session of Malaysia's Universal Periodic Review in Geneva from Nov 28 to Dec 1, representing NFA and our partner Family Frontiers Malaysia. The participation was part of a joint submission co-drafted by NFA representing eight national Malaysian organizations and two global organizations.





**It is important to end
statelessness but it is crucial
that this is done by centering
persons with lived experience
of statelessness**



**NATIONALITY
FOR ALL**



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