

# Outcome Document of the Fourth General Meeting of the Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition

## Overview

The fourth General Meeting of the Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition (SDCC) was held on March 1, 2024. This marked the first in-person meeting of the Coalition, with the presence of the steering committee. The meeting aimed to comprehensively understand the needs, interests and contributions of the coalition members, as well as to identify potential activities of the coalition.

## Needs, Interests, and Contributions

Members were divided into groups of three to discuss their needs, interests, and potential contributions. This facilitated a better understanding of each member's requirements and created opportunities for collaboration within the coalition.

- **Identified Needs:** The discussions revealed that the primary needs of the members lie in capacity building, particularly focused on fundraising support and collaborative research for advancing advocacy through UPR submissions.
- **Interests:** Members expressed interest in fundraising training, collaborative research, capacity building, youth training and development programs, and facilitation of dialogues with academics and governments.
- **Contributions:** Contributions identified included advocacy through collaborative research that can integrate the community bridge the access to information on the ground by providing proper translation to better communicate with the community, paralegal training programs, awareness programs, and engagement in national and international platforms,

## Areas of Work

- **Research:** The coalition discussed collaborating with research institutions and focusing the study on the Asia Pacific region, particularly on country-based detailed research and comparative research with other regions in the Pacific, and creative writing such as blogs and articles for non-academic audiences. The suggested areas of research were on Digital ID, Protracted Detention and Birth Registration. Translation of research into different languages was also considered.
- **Capacity Building:** The SDCC aims to organise two in-person meetings/workshops, sponsor members for various trainings, workshops, and courses, and provide risk management training. Additionally, the coalition aims to optimise its website and social media for advocacy and develop an advocacy guide and safeguarding system.
- **Advocacy:** Activities discussed included representation and participation in regional and international events, optimization of the coalition's website, launching a social media campaign in collaboration with members within the coalition, tailored advocacy strategies for different regions and countries collaboration with other coalitions. SDCC to establish partnership with national media through Memorandum of Understanding

## **Conclusion**

- **Active Engagement:** The meeting concluded with a focus on the active engagement of the members in the coalition. It was also suggested that a staff member from the secretariat to be dedicated for the SDCC
- **Priorities and Clarity:** The coalition aims to set limited priorities for the first year to ensure effective work and added value for the members. Clarity on the vision, mission, and activities of the coalition will be established.

**Fundraising Policy:** A fundraising policy will be developed to streamline the process of securing funding, reducing the burden on the secretariat and steering committee.

## **ANNEX**

### **Discussion 1: Needs, Interest and Contributions of the Coalition**

Ali's input:

Needs:

R4R is mostly self-funded, lacks long term institutional funding which makes our work very challenging. Therefore, carrying executive work becomes unstained. We would appreciate coalition's support in raising sustainable institutional funding, also capacity building on fundraising as well as capacity building on alternative to institutional funding.

Interest:

R4R is interested in comprehensively researching citizenship and documentation issue of the Rohingyas and advocate for the same. Some of the focus areas would be: drastically changing situation in Arakan, challenges with repatriation, resettlement, local integration, intergenerational childhood statelessness, statelessness and trafficking, prolong detention, humanitarian interventions, access to education for those in refuge, capacity building of community leaders and reps, trainings for youths, relationship and trust building UN and other stakeholders.

Contributions:

R4R brings the perspective and representation of largest known stateless people in the region. Leadership capacity, experience and expertise. We can build a team of Rohingya network group within the coalition with Rohingya leaders and reps.

From the Coalition members:

Needs:

- Focus on welcoming people with lived experience more
- Capacity Building
- Fundraising training
- Research Training

Interest

- Fundraising
- Collaborative research
- Coalition building- pool of experts
- Capacity Building for individuals and org on ground
- volunteer system in place

## Contributions

- Advocacy skills, research
- Legal empowerment: paralegal program
- Media mobilization
- Awareness programs
- Data sharing
- Funding knowledge and experience - how we can integrate into that
- Contribution in relation to capacity of the organization
- 2 types of research: short term solution and long-term solution
  - SDCC - AP needs to identify to what research they want to target first and peter McMullin can contribute in supporting the research
- documentation which contributes to the research network (E.g. Articles)
- connect and networking with organizations- contribution from experts in areas such as research
- come up with research methodologies that integrate the community;
  - bridge the access to information on the ground (providing proper translation to better communicate with the community)
- A call to action in emergency situations where proactive and productive responses could be found
- Data protection and privacy such as AI tracking the undocumented people who only outs them in bigger risk.
- focusing on the security of our stateless community as a priority
- it's not intended to be research group but to identify the gaps where research needs to be done
- supporting practitioners and researchers, providing them a space
- presence in regional spaces to raise more awareness

## Advisory group of the coalition:

- Advisory group members are also the founding members of the coalition; be it individuals or organizations
- The steering committee of the coalition will form a new advisory group
  - The advisory members have an option to be an individual member or to be advisory organizational member

## **Discussion 2- WORLD CAFE SESSION**

### Research:

Since very limited evidence-based studies have been conducted on the statelessness in the region, SDCC will focus on country based detailed research and comparative research with the other region. Digital ID is something that seems inevitable in future and SDCC can do a

comparative research on this with lessons learned from other region. Protracted detention and birth registration are two other areas SDCC can focus on. To boost the research capacity, SDCC can partner with different research institutions and centers and can also offer internship appetites to interested students.

- clear on the purpose for the research
- facilitating, coordinating the research sessions with partners who are interested
- disseminating and communicating the research that is already out there or which are new
- SDCC could support the translation of such research into different languages
- Research has to have a bottom -up approach
- Creating writings that is not academic such as newspaper, articles, blogs for people who aren't into the academia

### Capacity building:

For the members of the coalition, we can try to organize at least two in person meetings cum workshops in a year. But this would be again depended on how much funding and capacity the coalition will have. Besides, we can sponsor our members for difference courses, trainings and workshops on specific interested capacity building workshops and this can be done by coordinating for fee waiver. We can also organize experience sharing workshops like we did in Kathmandu with NFA, ISI, CAPN, R4R. we can also try to raise fund collective and provide some small capacity building trainings and meeting where we can offer our expertise as trainers, guest speakers etc. The coalition can organize some on demand trainings for the members, that would be good.

We can also do capacity building activities with state and UN reps like workshops

- Provide necessary training to mitigate the risk that comes with the work
- SDCC talks- regular engagements with experts, sessions, webinars, trainings etc.
- Engage with the selected government by the SDCC
- Three types of Capacity Building
  - Coalition's capacity building
  - Individual members capacity building
  - Capacity building within the ecosystem - goes beyond the report
- Fundraising is the priority for the coalition at the moment

### Advocacy:

Representation at different conference, advocacy meetings with donors, UN and other organization, diplomatic reps State reps on specific issues. The coalition can use it's website our social media platforms to invite articles, poetry, arts sharing, lived experience testimonies.

There is a good number of organizations and agencies working in the risk and safety of activists in the region. They provide relocation and safety grants. Legal support, tech support and capacity building support to activists can be provided when the risk is faced by them. But there are no such special support to the statelessness activists. Advocacy with these Human Rights Defenders organizations for inclusivity of stateless activists, partner with some of these organizations is an area that the coalition can focus on.

- Advocacy guide to be in place
- Endorsements and statements from coalition members
  - risk assessment group to be present
- Visits to the embassy
- Lobby with AP governments for UPR recommendations when countries are under review; find resources to participate in the sessions
- Institutional partnership with UNHCR regional bureau
- The steering committee to attend regional consultations
- Find out how SDCC can collaborate with other coalitions
- Add value to national level advocacy
- Meet the parliamentarians of different countries of the region
- Ground line the advocacy strategies
- Member sign postings (social media campaigns)
- Approach to all the three strategies, (moving forward with the approach)
- Coalition to represent the interest of the region, advocacy needs to be tailored according to the needs and interest of the countries and diff regions
- Use of human rights commission; ASEAN mechanism
- Rapid response channel
- Public awareness by technology
- Social media campaigns; partnership with international media; SDCC to establish partnership with national media through MOU
- Arts and advocacy to go hand in hand
- Build protocol and tailored campaign and strategy for each country and region
- Safeguarding systems to be in place of the coalition
- Approach international corporations for economic empowerment
- SC needs to figure what is our approach on partnerships
- Prepare a 2-3 pager approach strategy and the final draft will be approved by the members
- International Advocacy: providing support filing cases in the international committees such as CEDAW if the country has ratified the optional protocol
- members to share their motivation to be involved in the SDCC
- it is crucial to see by the Steering Committee that other members are involved in the coalition, if the members are not being engaged then, Steering Committee will not have a motivation to be engaged
- added value in the works that the members are doing in the national level
- develop a one-year action plan and try to manage a stipend for a year then see how it goes later
- more participation and engagement from the least represented sub-region (east Asia, central Asia and the pacific)
- limitations and quotas of sub region representation.
- have FAITH AND SUPPORT towards the inaugural steering committee and the secretariat as there are no funding available at the moment
- prioritize very few points which adds value to the works of the members in the national level;
- Lack of funding might be stressful for the secretariat or even the steering committee so to map out a certain period of time for the responsible party to seek out funding opportunities; so as to lessen the burden/ stress on them
- Having limited priorities for the first year to ensure that the work of the coalition is effective and streamlined than being stretched in different directions

- Focus on the values, mission and structure of the coalition; taking account of each and every aspect of the activities of SDCC
- Visibility- do we want to do that?
- social media, giving statements, creating content, functional website,
- comms working group will take up that role
- Functional network doesn't set itself up overnight so it's a balance between taking a conservative approach and also making sure all the members are involved
- The work of the coalition should add value to the organization and vice versa
- Quarterly meeting of the founding members- optional and tbd
- policy around fundraising has to be developed
- establishing communication channels - one platform can be the whatsapp group
- clarify the goals, vision, activities, needs
- prepare a questionnaire based on the conversation and sessions from the general meeting itself
- Bilateral conversations
- surveys to be conducted
- dedicated staff to work on the coalition from the secretariat