

NFA Annual Report 2025



NATIONALITY FOR ALL

Advancing the right to a nationality in the Asia-Pacific region

Cover:

Group photo of the participants of the Peer Learning Workshop on Paralegal Programming co-organized by Nationality For All, Council of Minorities and Namati.

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... at the core of Nationality For All remains a collective endeavor grounded in the belief that no one should be denied dignity, belonging, or rights because of who they are or where they come from. We believe that efforts to address statelessness must be led by those most affected by it, moving beyond tokenistic participation toward shared decision-making and leadership by stateless persons themselves. Our mission is to ensure that statelessness is addressed through rights-based, people-led, and accountable systems—remaining always in deep solidarity with the movements we accompany. For us, nationality is a foundational human right, not an administrative privilege."

The work ahead is demanding, but it is collective, and it is necessary.

Message from the Executive Director

2025 was a year of consolidation, reflection, and intentional growth for Nationality For All (NFA). As we entered our fifth year as a regional organization, we no longer focused on establishing our relevance, but on deepening our impact and sharpening our role within the statelessness movement in the Asia-Pacific.



At the core of our work remains a simple but firm belief: efforts to address statelessness must be led by those most affected by it. Throughout 2025, this principle guided our Partnership Building Programme, through which we continued to accompany impacted persons-led organizations across the region. Our internal evaluation of this work reaffirmed that meaningful movement-building requires long-term commitment, trust-based relationships, and sustained accompaniment, rather than short-term, transactional support.

This year also marked an important phase in NFA's knowledge-building work. We advanced critical research on Accountability to Affected People (AAP) and statelessness, centring lived experience in the assessment of global accountability frameworks. This work highlighted structural gaps in existing systems and offered practical pathways for institutions to move beyond tokenistic participation toward shared decision-making and leadership by stateless persons.

2025 was also an increasingly difficult year for the statelessness sector more broadly. Across the region, we witnessed a worsening of statelessness driven by conflict, displacement, discriminatory nationality laws, and tightening civic and political space. At the same time, the global funding environment continued to contract. Reduced donor flexibility, shifting priorities, and heightened competition placed significant strain on small and medium-sized organizations working on statelessness, including NFA and our partners. Navigating this reality required difficult choices, sharper prioritisation, and a renewed focus on sustainability, while remaining accountable to communities whose needs are growing, not shrinking.

I am deeply grateful to our partners, Board members, donors, and colleagues for their trust and continued collaboration. Most importantly, I thank the stateless and citizenship-affected leaders who continue to shape, challenge, and guide our work.

As we move forward, NFA remains committed to supporting leadership from lived experience, producing knowledge that serves movements, and advocating for systems that recognise stateless persons as rights-holders and decision-makers. The work ahead is demanding, but it is collective, and it is necessary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Subin Mulmi'.

Subin Mulmi
Executive Director

In Tribute to Ravi Hemadri

A tireless advocate, a fearless voice, and a founding force for justice.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Ravi Hemadri, a founding member of the Statelessness Network Asia Pacific (SNAP), which later became Nationality for All. Ravi was not only a foundational figure in the regional movement for the right to nationality, he was its conscience.

Through his lifelong work with the Development and Justice Initiative (DAJI), Ravi stood alongside stateless communities, refugees, displaced persons, and those systematically excluded, particularly in Assam. There, he championed the rights of people excluded from the National Register of Citizens and targeted through arbitrary citizenship processes, combining legal support, community mobilization, and fearless advocacy in one of the most challenging contexts for citizenship rights in the region.

Ravi was never afraid to speak truth to power. His critiques of state policies were sharp and unflinching, yet never self-righteous. He was guided by justice, not as an abstract ideal, but as something real and urgent for the people he stood with. His honesty gave courage to others; his voice gave strength to those who were silenced.

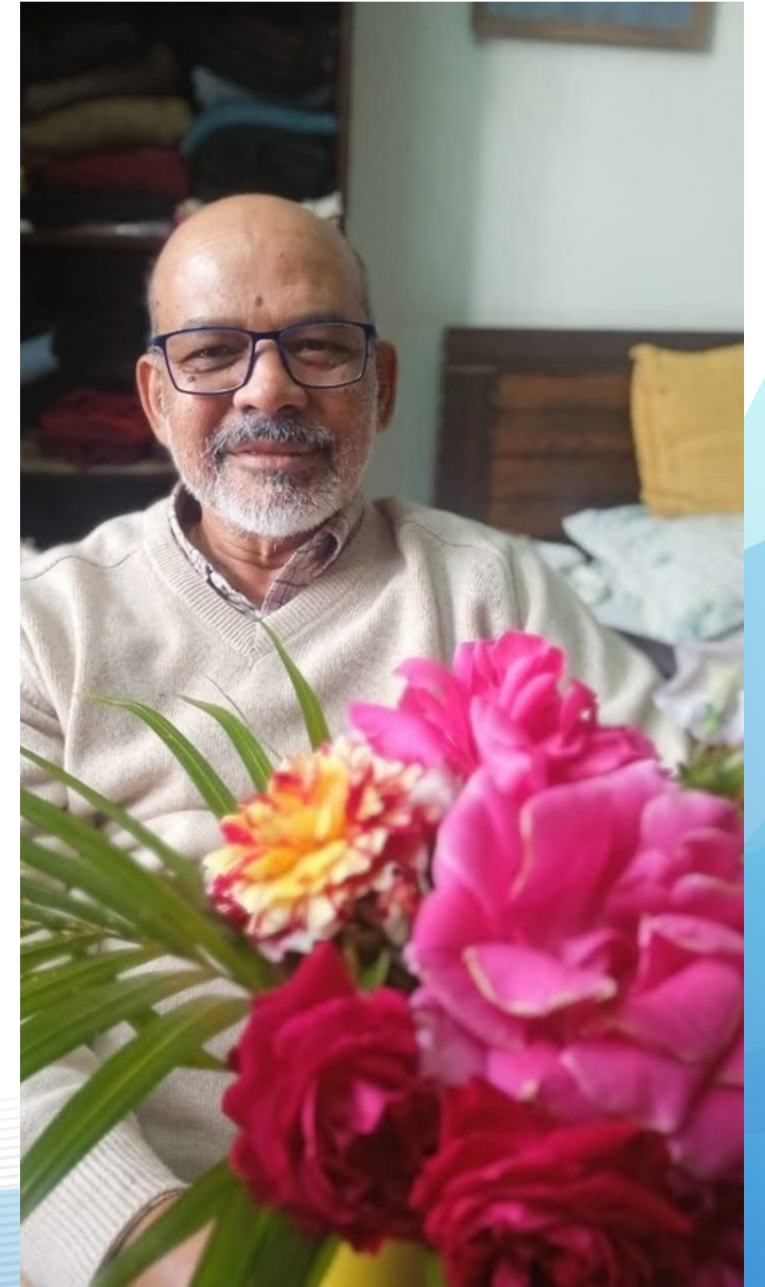
He believed deeply in building movements, networks, and solidarities. His vision helped shape what is now Nationality for All, not as a personal achievement, but as a collective endeavor grounded in the belief that no one should be denied dignity, belonging, or rights because of who they are or where they come from.

Ravi's legacy is vast. It lives in the communities he served, the movements he nurtured, and the countless lives he touched with compassion, integrity, and unwavering commitment.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Ravi's family, friends, and comrades. We honor his memory, and we carry his vision forward not only in words, but in action.

Thank you

**Rest in power, Ravi.
Your light will not be
extinguished.**



Our Team

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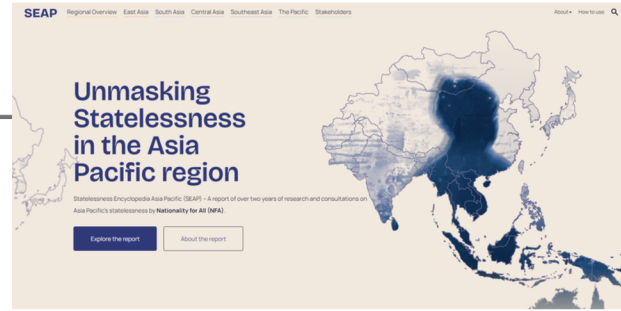
DR. LARA CHEN TIENSHI
Research Advisor

2025 Highlights: A Year of Consolidation and Impact

2025 marked a year of deep consolidation, strategic growth, and visible impact for Nationality for All (NFA). Across partnership building, knowledge production, coalition strengthening, and advocacy, NFA advanced its mission to ensure that statelessness is addressed through rights-based, people-led, and accountable systems—while remaining grounded in solidarity with impacted communities.

Strengthening Impacted-Persons-Led Movements

A defining achievement of 2025 was the deepening of NFA’s partnership and accompaniment model. Through sustained engagement with impacted-persons-led organisations—including the Council of Minorities (Bangladesh), Citizenship Affected People’s Network (Nepal), Family Frontiers (Malaysia), and Rohingya Human Rights Initiative (R4R)—NFA supported long-term movement resilience rather than short-term project delivery.



Advancing Knowledge that Shifts Power

NFA made major strides in knowledge building that centers lived experience and informs systemic change. These initiatives strengthened NFA’s role as a bridge between communities, evidence, and policy reform.



Building Regional and Global Coalitions

2025 was a landmark year for coalition building, particularly through the Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition – Asia Pacific (SDCC-AP), for which NFA serves as Secretariat. Beyond SDCC-AP, NFA continued to serve on the Secretariat of the Global Movement Against Statelessness (GMAS), contributing to global coordination and strategy.

Amplifying Voices Through Strategic Engagement

Throughout 2025, NFA participated in and contributed to high-level regional and global forums, including UN-led workshops, academic courses, strategic litigation networks, digital ID convenings, and ASEAN-focused dialogues. Across these spaces, NFA consistently amplified three core messages:

- Nationality is a foundational human right, not an administrative privilege.
- Digital and legal identity systems must be inclusive and rights-based; and
- Impacted persons must lead, not merely be consulted.



Influencing Policy and International Norms

NFA’s advocacy in 2025 ensured that statelessness remained visible within key international and regional policy spaces. These efforts reinforced NFA’s role as a trusted advocate capable of linking community realities to international accountability mechanisms.



1. Partnership Building Program

A recalibrated vision shifting from ‘support’ to solidarity, co-creation, and shared power.

Nationality For All (NFA) partners with stateless and impacted persons-led organisations across the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen advocacy for the rights of stateless and citizenship-affected communities. These partnerships are central to NFA’s mission of advancing rights-based, community-led approaches to addressing statelessness.

Through tailored accompaniment, strategic support, peer learning, and mentorship, NFA works alongside partners to strengthen organisational capacity, leadership, and resilience. Rather than short-term or transactional engagement, NFA’s partnership model is grounded in long-term solidarity, trust, and shared accountability—supporting partners to define and lead their own advocacy priorities.

Core Partners



Council of Minorities (COM) – Bangladesh

Based in Dhaka, COM is a community-led platform and movement representing the Urdu-speaking minority in Bangladesh. Founded in 2012, COM advocates for recognition, dignity, and equal access to rights for minority and indigenous communities. Led by individuals with lived experience of exclusion, COM combines research, advocacy, capacity building, and paralegal support to advance access to justice, economic opportunities, and social inclusion.

Citizenship Affected People’s Network (CAPN) – Nepal

CAPN is a national, community-rooted organisation advocating for gender-equal nationality laws and the rights of stateless people in Nepal. Through legal and political advocacy, social mobilisation, and activism, CAPN works to reform discriminatory citizenship frameworks and challenge stigma faced by stateless communities. CAPN’s initiatives are led by affected individuals and supported by allies committed to systemic change.

Family Frontiers (FF) – Malaysia

Family Frontiers is a community-rooted civil society organisation advancing equal citizenship rights in Malaysia. FF plays a leading role in the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship, whose advocacy and strategic litigation contributed to the 2024 Constitutional Amendment recognising Malaysian women’s equal right to confer citizenship on overseas-born children. FF employs a multi-pronged strategy combining parliamentary engagement, community organising, litigation, and public awareness campaigns, with impacted mothers at the centre of its work.

1.1 Strategic Planning Workshop with Rohingya Human Rights Initiative (R4R)

In January 2025, NFA partnered with the Rohingya Human Rights Initiative (R4R) to facilitate a four-day Strategic Planning Workshop in New Delhi, India (28–31 January 2025). The workshop marked a significant milestone for R4R, supporting the organisation to articulate a clear, sustainable strategic direction for the first time in its eight-year history.

Community-Centred and Participatory Approach

The workshop was designed as a participatory, community-led process grounded in lived experience. It brought together Rohingya community leaders, women, youth, core team members, and regional allies to ensure that R4R’s future strategy was shaped by community priorities rather than abstract planning frameworks.

The first day focused on community consultations, during which participants shared experiences of displacement, detention, documentation barriers, and daily survival challenges. Key priorities identified included:

- Protection against detention and deportation
- Access to civil registration, documentation, and pathways to citizenship
- Education and protection for women and children
- Safety and recognition for community human rights defenders

These reflections formed the ethical foundation for the strategic planning process.

Co-Creating R4R’s Strategic Direction (2025-2027)

Over the following days, NFA facilitated structured sessions with R4R’s core team, including:

- Reflection on organisational history and identity
- SWOT analysis, identifying strengths in community trust and rapid response, alongside risks related to security, funding, and sustainability
- Collective articulation of mission, vision, values, and long-term goals
- Development of a Theory of Change centred on justice, legal recognition, protection, and empowerment

The process resulted in a draft R4R Strategic Plan (2025–2027)—R4R’s first comprehensive organisational roadmap.

Strengthening Governance and Sustainability

Dedicated sessions addressed the need to strengthen internal systems to match the scale and sensitivity of R4R’s work. These included:

- Formalising organisational structure, roles, and decision-making
- Drafting and adopting core policies (safeguarding, finance, human resources, code of conduct)
- Developing a fundraising strategy and donor pipeline, mindful of security and banking constraints
- Improving budgeting, financial oversight, and risk mitigation

The workshop balanced compliance needs with the realities of operating as a community-led organisation under restrictive conditions.

1.2 Partnership Programme Evaluation and Learning

In May 2025, NFA undertook a comprehensive internal review of its Partnership Programme, culminating in the report NFA Partnership Programme: Lessons Learned and Way Forward. This reflection marked an important moment of organisational learning, accountability, and recalibration.

Purpose of the Partnership Programme

NFA's Partnership Programme was designed to move beyond short-term capacity building toward long-term accompaniment of organisations led by people with lived experience of statelessness. Following regional consultations, NFA entered into formal partnerships with:

- Council of Minorities (Bangladesh)
- Citizenship Affected People's Network – CAPN (Nepal)
- Family Frontiers (Malaysia)

The goal was to provide tailored support across organisational strengthening, leadership development, and advocacy.

Key Lessons Learned

The evaluation confirmed the strength of NFA's values-led approach, while identifying the need for greater structure and resourcing. Key lessons included:

- Accompaniment requires capacity: Long-term, meaningful support must be properly resourced and cannot be treated as an add-on.
- Clarity prevents harm: Unclear roles and informal arrangements in multi-actor settings led to confusion and unmet expectations.
- Relationships must be institutionalised: Over-reliance on personal relationships made partnerships vulnerable to staff transitions.
- Regional proximity matters: NFA's presence in the region enabled trust, political awareness, and timely support.
- Transitions need care: Exit and handover processes must be planned and supported to avoid abrupt or harmful disengagement.

The review reinforced a central insight: values-led partnership must be matched by systems-led practice.

A Recalibrated Partnership Vision

Building on these lessons, NFA articulated a revised partnership approach that shifts from "support" to solidarity.

Partnerships

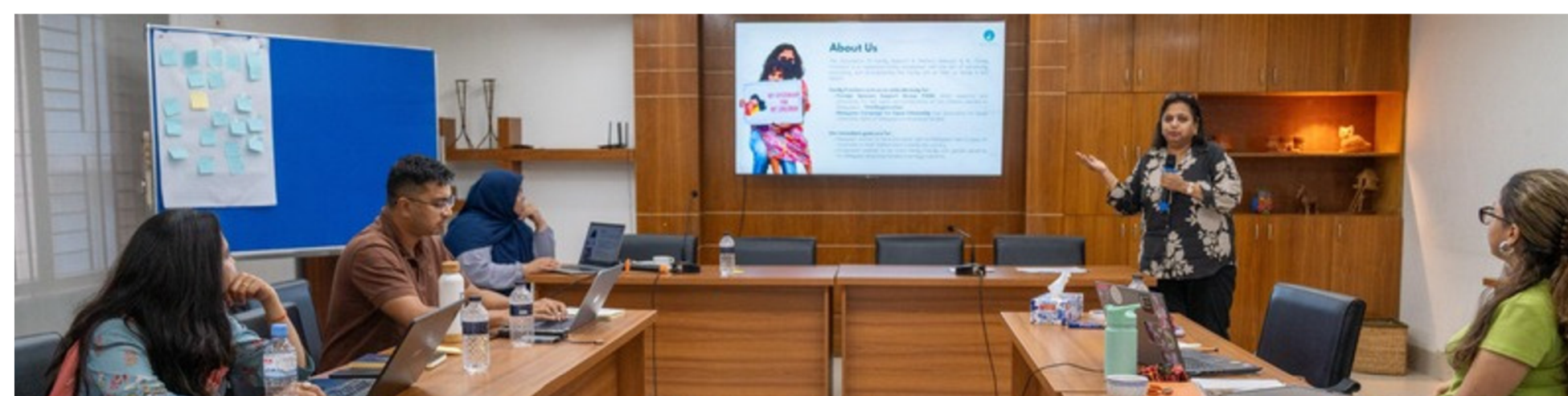
are now framed as mutual, co-creative, and interdependent, rather than donor-recipient or service-based relationships.

Going forward, NFA's partnership work will focus on enabling impacted persons-led organisations to become:

- Strategically effective in advocacy and agenda-setting
- Sustainable in governance, operations, and leadership pipelines
- Visible and influential in national, regional, and global decision-making spaces
- Interdependent, rooted in peer solidarity rather than organisational dependency



Personnel	Activities	Operating/Admin
Staff Salaries	Outreach Activities	Rent
M	Companionship	Utilities
F	Refresher training	Miscellaneous
Int	Bi-weekly meetings	Audit/Consultants



1.3 Peer Learning in Action: Strengthening Paralegal Networks

Paralegal Design and Implementation Exchange 7-9 September 2025 | Dhaka, Bangladesh

From 7-9 September 2025, NFA, in partnership with the Council of Minorities, convened a regional Paralegal Design and Implementation Exchange in Dhaka, supported by Namati and the Legal Empowerment Fund.

The three-day exchange brought together community leaders and practitioners from CAPN (Nepal) and Family Frontiers (Malaysia) to strengthen community paralegal programmes addressing statelessness and nationality rights.

Learning Through Practice

Participants engaged in interactive workshops, collaborative design sessions, and field visits to observe paralegal initiatives in action. Discussions focused on challenges and innovations in:

- Case management and documentation of legal identity barriers
- Safeguarding meaningful participation of impacted persons
- Linking paralegal work to evidence-based advocacy

Grounded in lived experience, the exchange demonstrated the value of cross-community learning and adaptation.

Paralegals as Agents of Change

The exchange reaffirmed the critical role of community paralegals in bridging gaps between stateless communities and justice systems. Participants explored strategies to:

- Design sustainable, people-centred paralegal programmes
- Strengthen data collection for advocacy
- Foster cross-border collaboration
- Promote wellbeing and collective care for paralegals and advocates

Peer Learning as Movement Infrastructure

The exchange reflected NFA’s approach to partnership building: peer learning not as a one-off activity, but as movement infrastructure. By creating spaces for shared learning and co-design, NFA and its partners continue to strengthen community-led responses to statelessness grounded in solidarity, accountability, and lived experience.



2. Knowledge Building Program

2.1 First Release of the Statelessness Encyclopedia Asia Pacific (SEAP) – Third Edition

On 19 August 2025, Nationality for All (NFA) launched the first release of the Third Edition of the Statelessness Encyclopedia Asia Pacific (SEAP), now live on the SEAP digital platform. Covering 25 countries across South Asia and the Pacific, this edition marks a major milestone in SEAP’s evolution—from an internal research initiative launched in 2021 to the region’s leading, publicly accessible hub on statelessness law, policy, and practice.

The Third Edition reflects NFA’s ongoing commitment to strengthening evidence-based advocacy, transparency, and regional collaboration to advance the right to nationality.



What’s New in the Third Edition

The latest edition introduces several significant innovations that enhance both the depth and accessibility of SEAP:

- Real-time online updates – Country factsheets and legal analyses are now updated directly on the SEAP website, enabling timely revisions without reliance on static PDF publications.
- New thematic coverage – For the first time, SEAP includes in-depth analysis of Digital ID systems and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) frameworks, examining how digitalization and registration practices can either mitigate or exacerbate statelessness risks.
- Expanded country coverage – The Third Edition adds Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, broadening the Encyclopedia’s geographic reach and inclusivity.
- Enhanced accessibility and transparency – Each country factsheet now includes detailed citations and source references, supporting research, verification, and policy engagement.

2.2 Knowledge Building through the Accountability to Affected Persons (AAP) Project

As part of its Knowledge Building programme, Nationality for All (NFA) led a multi-phase research and co-creation project focused on incorporating persons affected by statelessness into Accountability to Affected People (AAP) frameworks, particularly within humanitarian and protection systems.

The AAP Project responds to a long-standing gap: while accountability to affected people is a core principle across humanitarian action, stateless persons have remained structurally invisible within most AAP policies, tools,

and feedback mechanisms. This invisibility is rooted in legal exclusion, lack of documentation, digital barriers, and fear of engagement with formal systems, factors that standard AAP approaches rarely address.

Impacted-Person Leadership at the Core of Research

A defining feature of the AAP Project was its impacted-person-led research design. The Research Team intentionally centered lived experience not as an input, but as expertise and leadership.

The project’s research team included:

- One Research Associate with lived experience of statelessness, who played a central role in research design, data analysis, and interpretation; and
- A Research Advisory Group of four advisors, all of whom are persons affected by statelessness, representing diverse regional and community contexts.

This structure ensured that the research questions, methodologies, ethical considerations, and recommendations were grounded in the realities of those most affected by accountability gaps. It also reflected NFA’s commitment to shifting power in knowledge production, recognising impacted persons as researchers, analysts, and co-authors of solutions.

From Inclusion to Leadership

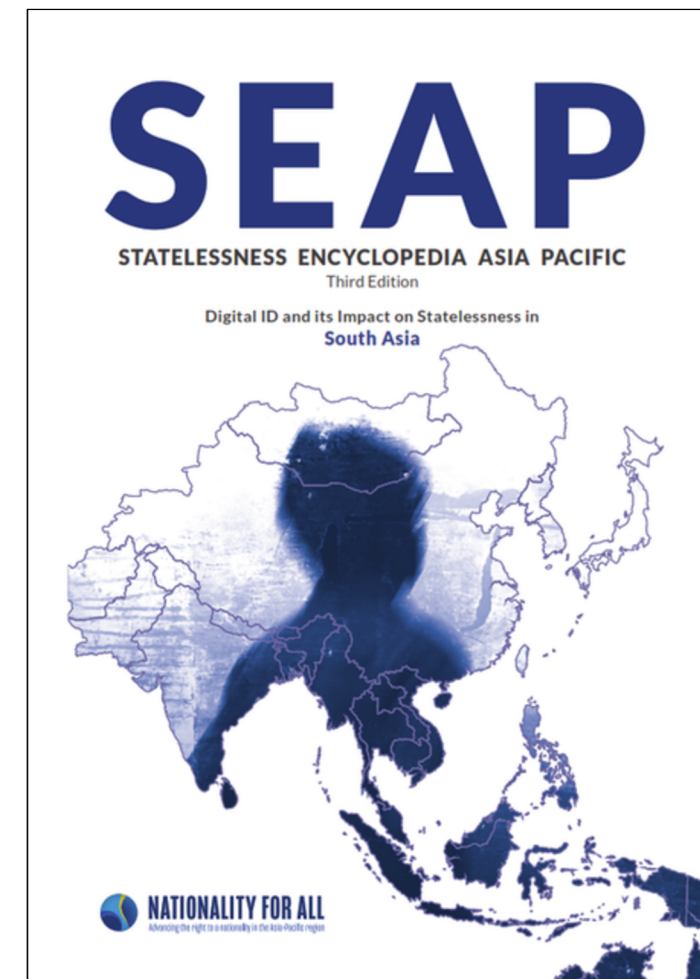
Rather than treating stateless persons as a sub-category of “persons of concern,” the project starts from a different premise: stateless people are rights-holders, accountability actors, and knowledge holders, whose leadership is essential to making AAP meaningful.

The AAP Project was designed to move the conversation from tokenistic consultation toward shared power, co-ownership, and institutional accountability to stateless communities.

Key Insights and Contributions generated:

- Statelessness is a distinct accountability challenge, not simply a vulnerability category.
- Many existing AAP mechanisms inadvertently reproduce

- exclusion by presuming legal identity, digital access, and formal representation.
- Meaningful accountability requires safe, legally agnostic, community-owned feedback and participation mechanisms.
- Intersectional barriers, especially for women, youth, and persons with disabilities, remain under-addressed.
- Stateless-led organisations are already modelling effective accountability practices, but remain under-recognised and under-resourced.



3. Coalition Building Program

3.1 Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition - Asia Pacific (SDCC-AP)

In 2025, the Statelessness and Dignified Citizenship Coalition – Asia Pacific (SDCC-AP) made significant progress in strengthening its governance, participation, and operational foundations. With Nationality For All (NFA) continuing to serve as the Secretariat, the Coalition focused on translating its values, impacted-person leadership, shared governance, and accountability into concrete systems and practices.

3.1.1 Strengthening Governance through Sub-Groups

To enhance participation, accountability, and effective delivery, SDCC-AP's Steering Committee (SC) and Advisory Committee (AC) established four internal Sub-Groups in January 2025. Members of the newly formed Impacted Persons Advisory Group (IPAG) were integrated across these Sub-Groups, ensuring that lived experience informed coalition governance from the outset.

Unlike thematic Working Groups (to be launched later with broader membership), the Sub-Groups focused on internal governance and implementation of SC and AC responsibilities, while supporting the Secretariat to deliver planned activities.

The Sub-Group model marked an important step in operationalising SDCC-AP's commitment to shared leadership, clear accountability, and collective responsibility.

3.1.2 Formation of the Impacted Persons Advisory Group (IPAG)

A major milestone in 2025 was the formal establishment of the Impacted Persons Advisory Group (IPAG), a core governance body within SDCC-AP.

IPAG was created to ensure that people with lived experience of statelessness and citizenship exclusion are not only consulted, but actively shape Coalition priorities, strategies, and decisions.

Purpose of IPAG

- Embed lived experience at the centre of governance
- Strengthen accountability to stateless and citizenship-affected communities
- Inform advocacy, programming, and partnerships with grounded perspectives

The first IPAG comprised advocates from diverse regional and community backgrounds, reflecting SDCC-AP's belief that solutions to statelessness must be led by those most affected.

3.1.3 Adoption of Core Governance Policies

To support transparency, integrity, and sustainable growth, SDCC-AP adopted several key policies through Steering Committee and Advisory Committee processes in 2025. These policies provide a strong governance foundation as the Coalition expands its membership and activities.

Adopted Policies

- **Safeguarding Policy** - ensuring safe, respectful, and accountable engagement
- **Conflict of Interest Policy** - promoting integrity and transparency in decision-making
- **Membership Expansion Policy** - guiding inclusive, values-based growth



3.1.4 Lived Experience Fellowship

The SDCC-AP Townhall announced the launch of the Lived Experience Fellowship, a flagship initiative designed to resource, mentor, and amplify impacted-person leadership.

The Fellowship supported stateless and citizenship-affected advocates to engage meaningfully in regional advocacy, knowledge-building, and coalition activities.

Key Objectives

- Enable meaningful participation in regional and global advocacy spaces
- Build skills in policy engagement, research, storytelling, and movement-building
- Recognise lived experience as expertise and leadership

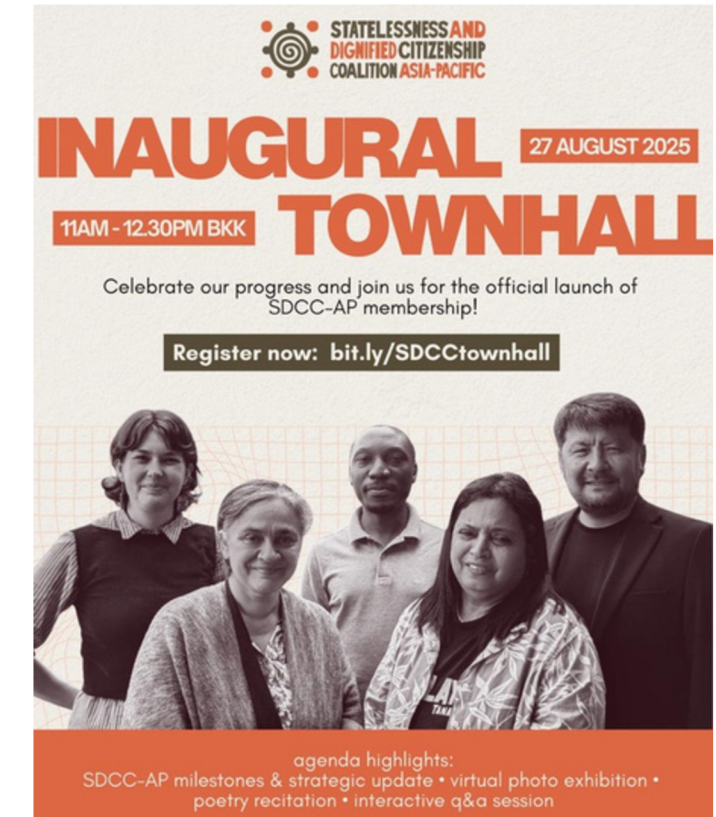
The Fellowship included stipends, structured mentorship, opportunities to contribute to Coalition activities, and peer-learning spaces, reflecting SDCC-AP's commitment to shifting power through investment, not invitation alone.

3.1.5 SDCC-AP Townhall 2025

The 2025 SDCC-AP Townhall convened 43 participants from across the Asia-Pacific and beyond, including founding and prospective members, impacted persons, civil society organisations, academics, UN agencies, and regional networks.

The Townhall provided a space to reflect on the Coalition's journey, share governance milestones, and outline priorities for the next phase. Discussions reaffirmed commitments to impacted-person leadership, transparent governance, and inclusive collaboration.

Creative elements including poetry, visual storytelling, and curated multimedia, grounded policy discussions in lived realities, highlighting the role of art as advocacy and resistance. The diversity of participants underscored SDCC-AP's belief that durable change requires multiple forms of knowledge and leadership working together.



3.1.6 Opening of SDCC-AP Membership



On 1 October 2025, SDCC-AP officially opened its membership, marking a significant step toward building a broader, more connected regional movement for citizenship justice.

Membership was open to:

- Civil society organisations and networks
- Grassroots activists and advocates
- Impacted persons and community leaders

As Secretariat, NFA continued to support the Coalition’s growth, membership onboarding, and collective action to advance dignity, equality, and the right to nationality across the region.

3.1.7 In-Person Steering Committee Meeting

17–20 November 2025 | Bangkok

SDCC-AP convened its first in-person Steering Committee Meeting in Bangkok, marking a critical moment in consolidating governance, strategy, and future direction.

Key Outcomes

- Formal adoption of the Strategic Plan (2025–2027) and implementation roadmap
- Approval of fundraising strategy, budgets, and financing framework
- Agreement on membership engagement and Working Group development
- Decisions on Steering Committee transition, nominations, and onboarding
- Alignment on priorities for 2026, including Global Refugee Forum engagement

The meeting combined reflection, strategic planning, and formal decision-making, reinforcing shared leadership, accountability, and regional solidarity. Clear action points and timelines were agreed to guide implementation into 2026.

3.2 Regional Partnership Dinner

As part of the in-person meeting, SDCC–AP and Nationality for All co-organised a Regional Partnership Dinner on 19 November 2025 in Bangkok.

The dinner brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from UN agencies, regional organisations, civil society groups, academic institutions, and donor organisations.

Participants included representatives from UNHCR, UNDP, UN Women, ESCAP, academic institutions, and regional networks, reflecting a broad cross-section of actors engaged in statelessness and citizenship-related work.

The objectives of the dinner were to:

- strengthen relationships with key regional and international stakeholders
- introduce SDCC–AP’s work, priorities, and strategic direction
- create space for informal dialogue and exchange
- explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership

The event complemented the formal meeting by providing an informal setting for engagement, strengthening visibility, and reinforcing SDCC–AP’s role as a regional platform for collaboration.

3.3 The Second Quarterly Webinar

The second webinar in the SDCC-AP Quarterly Webinar Series focused on the theme “Advancing Nationality Rights and Addressing Statelessness: Achievements and Challenges in Central Asia.” It formed part of the Coalition’s Regional Learning and Engagement Series and aimed to highlight regional experiences, foster collaboration, and strengthen knowledge exchange across contexts.

The webinar was held on 27 November 2025 in a virtual format and brought together members, partners, and stakeholders from across the Asia Pacific region.

Purpose and Objectives

The webinar was designed to build a deeper understanding of statelessness in Central Asia, a region that has demonstrated significant progress in reducing statelessness while continuing to face structural and legal challenges.

The key objectives included:

- highlighting national and regional achievements in addressing statelessness
- sharing practical lessons and advocacy strategies from civil society organisations
- examining persistent challenges, including gender discrimination, legal barriers, and cross-border complexities
- strengthening collaboration between Central Asian networks and SDCC-AP
- encouraging engagement with the Coalition, including participation in its membership processes



Structure and Format

The webinar was conducted as a 90-minute virtual session and included a combination of presentations, moderated discussions, and a question-and-answer segment.

The structure included:

- opening remarks and introduction to the session
- presentations by regional experts and practitioners
- country-specific case studies and experiences
- moderated discussion and audience interaction
- closing reflections

The session was facilitated collaboratively, with roles distributed among SDCC-AP members and participants, including moderation, timekeeping, speaker coordination, and management of the Q&A segment

Key Themes and Discussions

The webinar brought together speakers from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, each presenting on their respective country experiences.

Key themes that emerged from the discussions included:

- the importance of legal reform and policy frameworks in reducing statelessness
- the role of civil society organisations in supporting documentation and legal processes
- the impact of large-scale national campaigns, including birth registration and identification initiatives
- the significance of multi-stakeholder collaboration between governments, civil society, and international organisations
- ongoing challenges related to gender discrimination, migration, and access to nationality procedures

Presentations highlighted notable regional progress, including examples such as Kyrgyzstan's achievement in resolving known cases of statelessness and broader regional reductions in stateless populations through coordinated efforts.



4. Advocacy

In 2024–2025, NFA continued to use international and regional human rights mechanisms to advance nationality rights, prevent and reduce statelessness, and strengthen accountability for discrimination and exclusion. Our advocacy centered lived experience, supported partners' leadership, and linked legal identity to broader protection and equality agendas.

4.1 Joint Submission to CEDAW on Nepal

February 2025

In partnership with CAPN Nepal, SDCC-AP, ISI, and GCENR, NFA submitted a joint report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) highlighting how Nepal's nationality framework continues to discriminate against women and girls and perpetuate intergenerational statelessness.

The submission documented how legal and procedural barriers, particularly those requiring women to prove the father's identity or nationality, deny women equal rights to confer nationality and deepen exclusion for children and families. It also highlighted the intersectional impact of discrimination on Madhesi, Tharu, Dalit, and other marginalized communities.

Key recommendations called for constitutional and legislative reform to guarantee equal nationality rights, removal of procedural obstacles, accessible remedies for those already rendered stateless, and meaningful participation of impacted women and communities in law reform processes.

4.2 Joint Submission for Australia's Fourth UPR

July 2025

NFA, together with the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness (PMCS), submitted recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council urging Australia to adopt long-overdue measures to protect stateless persons and provide durable solutions.

Key recommendations included establishing a Statelessness Determination Procedure (SDP), creating a dedicated pathway to permanent residency and naturalisation for stateless individuals, preventing prolonged or arbitrary detention, strengthening safeguards to avoid statelessness arising from citizenship deprivation laws, and integrating statelessness considerations into climate mobility frameworks.

The submission emphasized that implementation must match commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), noting that many stateless people in Australia remain in legal limbo without stable status or access to rights.



4.3 Join Statement on Rohingya Deportations, Detention, and Torture in India

May 2025

In May 2025, NFA endorsed a joint statement issued by more than 70 organisations and individuals globally condemning reported forced deportations, arbitrary detention, and credible allegations of torture and inhumane treatment of Rohingya refugees in India, including individuals registered with UNHCR.

The statement called for an immediate end to unlawful deportations and detention, independent investigations into allegations of torture and refoulement, and the adoption of rights-based frameworks to ensure due process and protection for refugees and stateless persons. NFA's endorsement reflected its commitment to principled solidarity and protection-focused advocacy for Rohingya communities.

4.4 Rohingya Advocacy through UN Accountability Mechanisms

NFA coordinated a UPR submission on Myanmar with partners including ISI, the iLiT team at Temple University, GMAS, and grassroots activists. When the UPR timeline shifted, NFA and partners sustained momentum through a joint written statement to the Human Rights Council and advocacy meetings with the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, contributing regional perspectives to ongoing UN reporting and monitoring. NFA also strengthened engagement with the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), sharing evidence and analysis on continuing persecution of Rohingya communities to help ensure statelessness remains central to international accountability processes.

4.5 Civil Society Statement for the Third Ministerial CRVS Conference

Bangkok | March - June 2025

NFA played a leading role in the civil society process supporting the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS[AR1]) in Asia and the Pacific (June 2025). This work began at the Young People and Civil Society CRVS Forum (4-6 March 2025), where NFA helped shape shared regional priorities and volunteered to coordinate drafting of the Civil Society Statement. The statement adopted a rights-based and intersectional approach, emphasizing that CRVS and Digital ID



systems must be inclusive of stateless persons, refugees, displaced people, and marginalized communities, and must be implemented with strong privacy, data protection, and alternative pathways for undocumented populations.

At the Ministerial Conference (24-26 June 2025), NFA's Executive Director delivered the joint statement on behalf of more than 30 organisations and networks. A concrete advocacy achievement was the **explicit recognition of statelessness in the official Ministerial outcomes**, reflecting progress in framing CRVS not only as a technical process, but as a human rights imperative linked to nationality and belonging.

4.6 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) Progress Review

Bangkok | March - June 2025

NFA participated in UNHCR's GRF Progress Review to reinforce that statelessness is a structural driver of protection gaps and protracted vulnerability, and that durable solutions cannot be achieved without addressing nationality rights and legal identity.

Across linked GRF events, side events, and strategic meetings with UN agencies, states, and civil society partners, NFA advanced core messages: pledges must translate into implementation; impacted-person leadership must be meaningfully supported; and civil registration, nationality laws, and Digital ID systems must be rights-based and inclusion-oriented. NFA also engaged with senior UN leadership to underscore the urgency of sustaining institutional attention to statelessness amid increasing political and funding constraints.



5. NFA's Participation in Events

In 2025, NFA engaged in key regional and global convenings to advance advocacy on nationality rights, inclusive legal identity, protection for people on the move, and the leadership of impacted persons. These events strengthened NFA's partnerships, elevated Asia-Pacific perspectives in global spaces, and contributed to concrete policy outcomes, particularly on CRVS and digital identity.

Global Convening on Inclusive Digital ID Systems, Nationality, and Statelessness

12 - 13 February 2025 | Paris, France

NFA participated in a global convening hosted by the World Bank and partners examining how digital ID systems can advance—rather than undermine—the rights of stateless and marginalized communities. NFA shared regional insights on exclusion risks when nationality or legal status becomes a prerequisite for registration, and emphasized the need for rights-based safeguards, alternative pathways for undocumented persons, and enforceable privacy and data protection frameworks.

RightsCon 2025

24 - 27 February 2025 | Taipei, Taiwan

At the RightsCon 2025, NFA organized the panel “The Data and Identity Barter: How Much More Can the Stateless Offer?”, facilitated by Shuchi Purohit (Research & Advocacy Coordinator). The session brought together experts to examine how digital identity systems can deepen exclusion for stateless persons, drawing on case studies from India, Uganda, and Myanmar, and identifying safeguards to prevent digitalization from restricting access to services and rights.

OHCHR–UNHCR Expert Workshop on the Right to a Nationality: Equality in Law and in Practice

06 May 2025 | Online

Invited as a speaker, NFA's Executive Director, Subin Mulmi, presented on discrimination in nationality matters in the

Asia-Pacific. NFA highlighted intersecting drivers of statelessness, gender discrimination, ethnic and religious exclusion, and administrative barriers, and called for people-centered reforms grounded in equality and meaningful participation of affected communities.

Global Alliance to End Statelessness – Inter-Regional Network Lab

20 May 2025 | Online

NFA participated in the Inter-Regional Network Lab for Regional IGOs convened under the Global Alliance to End Statelessness. Subin Mulmi shared reflections on strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and expanding the Solution Seekers Programme, emphasizing the importance of impacted-person leadership and cross-regional learning, including lessons from coalition-building in the Asia-Pacific.

UNDP Asia-Pacific Youth Empowerment Portfolio (YEP-AP) Learning and Knowledge Exchange Session

20 May 2025 | Online

NFA contributed to UNDP's regional learning session on intersectional marginalization under the Leave No One Behind agenda. Subin Mulmi spoke on statelessness and youth exclusion, highlighting how lack of nationality restricts education, healthcare, employment, and participation—especially for youth facing compounded discrimination—and shared pathways for more inclusive youth programming rooted in community partnerships and lived-experience leadership.

Strategic Litigation Webinar: “Litigating for Equality and Belonging”

18 June 2025 | Online

NFA participated in a regional webinar on strategic litigation advancing children's rights and family life in mobility contexts. Subin Mulmi discussed how discriminatory nationality laws drive family separation and undermine children's rights, drawing on experiences from Malaysia and Nepal. NFA emphasized that durable change requires integrated strategies combining litigation, advocacy, coalition-building, and impacted-person leadership.

UNHCR Regional Reception at the CRVS Conference (Launch of Ending Statelessness Together)

24 June 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand



NFA participated in a special reception hosted by UNHCR during the CRVS Conference. Subin Mulmi offered reflections on progress, partnership, and the centrality of impacted-person leadership in ending statelessness, underscoring that durable change is built through inclusive policies and sustained collaboration among governments, civil society, and affected communities.

Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Asia and the Pacific

24–26 June 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

NFA participated in the Ministerial Conference and delivered the Joint Civil Society Statement on behalf of more than 30 civil society organizations and networks. NFA emphasized that CRVS and digital ID systems must be inclusive of stateless persons and those at risk, grounded in rights, and supported by strong privacy and data protection safeguards—calling for universal access to registration regardless of nationality or legal status and for meaningful participation of civil society and impacted communities.

ICVA Global Dialogue: “Is Return Always a Durable Solution?”

22 July 2025 | Online

NFA participated in ICVA's global webinar examining voluntary repatriation. Subin Mulmi challenged assumptions that return is durable for stateless populations when nationality and legal identity remain unresolved, emphasizing that return must be linked to recognition, documentation, and rights to avoid reinforcing exclusion and cycles of displacement.

Keynote Address – 14th Online Course on Statelessness (IIHL)

14 October 2025 | Online

NFA participated in the opening of the IIHL Online Course on Statelessness, with Subin Mulmi delivering the keynote address to a global cohort of government officials, UN agencies, civil society practitioners, and academics. The keynote emphasized inclusion in CRVS and digital ID systems, whole-of-society approaches, and the non-negotiable need to center impacted-person leadership.

NFA's Participation in Events

Asia Pacific Strategic Litigation Network Meeting: Human Rights of People on the Move

4–5 November 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

NFA, represented by Subin Mulmi, joined the annual in-person meeting co-led by OHCHR and APRRN, bringing together litigators and civil society partners from across the region. Discussions addressed priority protection issues including non-refoulement, trafficking risks, emerging legal strategies, and collaborative workshoping of strategic cases relevant to people on the move.

UNHCR Regional Workshop on Operationalizing the Panoramic / Route-Based Approach (PA/RBA)

27–28 November 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

NFA participated in UNHCR's workshop focused on route-based protection across key displacement corridors in Asia and the Pacific. Represented by Krishna Deoja (Programme Coordinator), NFA emphasized integrating statelessness across all stages of displacement journeys, strengthening referral pathways and community-based monitoring, and improving coordination and data systems for early identification of risk.

Regional Partnership Dinner 2025 (with SDCC-AP)

19 November 2025 | Bangkok, Thailand

NFA, together with SDCC-AP, convened a Regional Partnership Dinner alongside the SDCC-AP Steering Committee meeting. The dinner brought together 26

participants from civil society, UN agencies, diplomatic missions, academia, and regional networks to strengthen relationships, exchange perspectives on emerging challenges, and identify opportunities for deeper collaboration on nationality rights and inclusive citizenship.

2025 Kapihan on Human Rights: Protection and Inclusion in ASEAN

2–3 December 2025 | Manila, Philippines

NFA participated in a regional dialogue convened ahead of the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairship. Representing NFA, Nicole Fong delivered a presentation on ending statelessness and advancing the right to a nationality in Southeast Asia. NFA proposed priorities for ASEAN's human rights work plan, including integrating the right to nationality into ASEAN frameworks, establishing sustained institutional focus (AICHR/ACWC), strengthening engagement with the Global Alliance, and ensuring meaningful participation of impacted persons and civil society.





AMPLIFYING VOICES, ADVANCING DIGNITY, ENDING STATELESSNESS.

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