

CHILD IDENTITY PROTECTION

Child Identity Protection
(CHIP) Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
GENEVA, Sept. 17, 2024—

my vision

Every child has the right to a legal identity, including through birth registration.

my mission

To elevate the global importance of birth registration for the millions of children who remain without a birth certificate.

my objective

To ensure that each sailing adventure garners significant media attention on children's right to identity, with a focus on the legal identity issues affecting the countries featured in the race.

Alicia Pfyffer

Sailing to protect child's right to identity

In a powerful fusion of adventure and advocacy, Alicia de Pfyffer sets sail to champion the rights of children through **Child Identity Protection**. With the global visibility of high-level sailing competitions, Alicia has chosen to focus on a fundamental right: the right to a legal identity, the foundation upon which all other rights are built. Just as an anchor provides stability for a vessel, a legal identity secures the full spectrum of a child's rights.

This «anchor»—a legal identity obtained through birth registration—is often the first moment a government officially recognises a child's existence. With a birth certificate, a child can attend school, receive medical care, and access social services. More critically, legal identity helps protect children from dangers such as human trafficking, armed group recruitment, child marriage, and extreme forms of child labor by proving their age and identity.

Yet, despite its importance, at least 167 million children worldwide remain unregistered at birth, and millions are stateless. Even for those who are registered, crucial information about their origins may be missing, particularly in cases of adoption or assisted reproductive technologies. The identity rights of countless children are also jeopardised when they are separated from their families.

The challenges to birth registration are vast. Lack of awareness among parents and communities about the significance of legal identity, coupled with barriers such as the cost, geographic isolation of registry offices, and discriminatory laws that may only allow fathers or married couples to register children, compound the problem.

Through her participation in prestigious sailing competitions, Alicia will use her platform to raise global awareness about the dire consequences of not having a birth certificate. Her journey will spotlight the critical need for birth registration in countries around the world, highlighting the life-altering impact it has on children's futures.

#LegalIdentity - Anchor for All Rights #SDG16.9

About Child Identity Protection (CHIP)

Founded in Geneva in 2020, Child Identity Protection (CHIP) is the leading international non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to advocating for the protection of children's identity rights, particularly within the context of family relations. CHIP collaborates with governments and key stakeholders to ensure universal birth registration and full recognition of family relations, safeguarding every child's right to identity.

Through its work, CHIP supports global initiatives like the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda Taskforce, enhancing efforts to protect children's identity rights concerning birth registration and nationality. As the only organization of its kind, CHIP remains at the forefront of driving policy and practical solutions to secure the future of children's identity worldwide.

About Alicia Pfyffer von Altishofen

Alicia, a passionate sailor and dedicated sportswoman, has been involved in sailing since childhood. Swiss national, born in Zimbabwe and raised in the south of Spain, she has turned her lifelong love for the ocean into a career.

Currently training with Lorient Grand Large, Alicia is ranked among the top ten in the French Mini 6.50m championships. As she prepares for the upcoming Mediterranean end-of-season races, her sights are set on a new challenge: the Atlantic.

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