

## June 2026: Informal consultations on treaty body and HRC council mainstreaming on child's right to identity in existing recommendations and resolutions - hosted by the Identity Rights Working Group and Global Alliance to End Statelessness

**Date:** 18 June 2026 (9h – 10h30)

**Modality:** Informal consultation (in person/online/closed) at CAGI La Pastoral/via zoom

**Attendees:** Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen CEDAW committee vice-chair; Sabrina Gahar Sabrina, CMW committee member and ACERWC Chairperson; Philip Jaffé UN CRC committee vice-chair; Miriam Ragala Permanent mission of Morocco, Maria Mihăilescu Romania Permanent mission of Romania; Michael Meier Permanent mission of Switzerland; Ghada Al-Rayan Apatride Network; Iris Amaldi ATD Fourth World; Zoé Bertrand and Danaé van der Straten Ponthoz Global Survivors Fund; Anjali Bhaskar and Mia Dambach Child Identity Protection (CHIP); Patricia Cabral European Network on Statelessness; Patricia Coutinho Council of Europe; Helen Griffiths Child and Youth Rights Unit, OHCR; Mané Kocharyan Independent; Carlotta Lopresti International Commission on Civil Status (ICCS); Roman Marin UNHCR; Bhaskar Mishra UNICEF; Deneisha Moss, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion and Pascal Rudin International Federation of Social Workers.

### Background

At a time where there are less resources and the UN system is undergoing reforms; it is essential to identify ways to leverage common expertise and build synergies. To promote a more holistic understanding of the interconnections involved in protecting children's identity rights, the IDRWG and Global Alliance to End Statelessness organised a first informal consultation bringing together key stakeholders to discuss the interdependence of the different elements of identity and consider the need for progressive guidance in an integrated way.

This meeting was an informal space for States, UN treaty body experts, UN agencies, CSOs and those with lived experience to share strategies, challenges, and emerging good practices across three interconnected dimensions of children's identity rights (birth registration, nationality and family relations).

### Meeting objectives

- Discuss how to pool resources to promote the widest dissemination and implementation of international norms on child's right to identity in existing recommendations and resolutions
- Explore opportunities for increased integration of children's identity rights in ongoing human rights procedures and mechanisms, including resolutions, general days of discussion, general comments etc.
- Consider the establishment of an informal group of Child Rights Champions made of States, treaty body representatives, UN agencies and CSOs – a potential first topic could be child's right to identity
- Consider a webinar series/side events promoting promising practices

### Meeting presentations

- Iris Amaldi ATD Fourth World with video of children explaining impact of not having a birth certificate in Africa, Americas and Asia
- Bhaskar Mishra UNICEF provides a global overview of over 200 million children under 5 without a birth certificate, challenges and solutions
- Ghada Al-Rayan Apatride Network provides her lived experience of being third generation stateless from Palestine and how she navigated the Swiss asylum procedures

- Deneisha Moss, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion provides an overview of childhood statelessness in the different treaty bodies
- Zoé Bertrand, Global Survivors Fund provides an overview of impact of challenges to having a birth certificate and nationality for children born from conflict related sexual violence

### Leading discussion questions

- How does the Human Rights Council and your treaty bodies monitor the recommendations you have made?
- What existing mechanisms do you have for cross-dialogue on issues of common interest?
- What framework (formal and informal) is in place to facilitate a coordinated approach (e.g.: joint statements, general comments, webinars, etc.)?
- What next steps could be considered to support better implementation of the HRC and treaty body recommendations?

### Open discussions and interventions

- CEDAW, CMW and CRC committee members explained their different methods for following their recommendations. All have worked together in the past to do joint General comments and/or statements. There is no standard way of doing joint activities.
- Some believe that the “identity rights” are viewed as a niche issue and therefore more work is needed at the HRC to show how it is the “first” right and provides access to other rights
- Opportunities to raise awareness include
  - Joint statement for punctual issues
  - Side-event at the various HRC sessions
  - Webinars and other public events
  - Joint recommendation / comment with ideally four treaty bodies
- Morocco launched a technical assistance network for implementation of HRC resolutions, O, first meeting in early 2027.
- Should do a mapping of promising practices and State implementation to inform strategy
- UNICEF, UNHCR and CSOs present at the meeting willing to support the implementation of these opportunities. Having worked together for multiple years, they can ensure the widest possible participation of professionals and those with lived experience (e.g. IFSW is a network that represents over 5 million social workers in the world and CSOs have contacts with lived experience)
- Global Alliance to End Statelessness can support with peer learning
- Broad agreement that given the current resource constraints faced by all, further collaborative activities would be helpful and worthwhile exploring such as a joint General Comment pooling expertise and resources of the treaty bodies with the CRC as the “common denominator”

### Next steps

- ID rights WG to meet on 30 June
  - prepare for 28<sup>th</sup> September
  - actively pursue other missions such as Mexico and Turkey to attend
- UNICEF is coordinating some events on 28<sup>th</sup> September
  - Side-event on 28 September at 63<sup>rd</sup> session of HRC (potential idea)
  - Afternoon meeting on 28 September to continue discussions on treaty body and HRC council mainstreaming on child’s right to identity
- Treaty body members to report back to their Committees to see what opportunities there might be for leveraging resources and collaborate with each other