

Pre-Announcement

The First Global Forum on Statelessness

New Research and Policy Perspectives

15 – 17 September 2014, The Hague

The *First Global Forum on Statelessness* is a 3-day event, co-hosted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Tilburg University's Statelessness Programme, bringing together some 300 academics, government representatives, international organisations, NGOs and stateless people from around the world to present their research, policy work and experiences of statelessness. It will be held in The Hague (the Netherlands) from 15 – 17 September 2014, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the first United Nations Convention to address statelessness: the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

The overarching theme of the First Global Forum on Statelessness is “Exploring challenges and sharing good practices in research and policy on statelessness”. Three sub-themes have been identified as the main focus for presentations and discussion:

1. Stateless Children

Topics that may be considered under this theme include: securing a child's right to a nationality, including in contexts such as international surrogacy arrangements, where children are abandoned or orphaned, or in the case of disabled children; the importance of birth registration and documentation; the impacts on children of gender discrimination in nationality matters; and addressing the psychological effects of statelessness on children

2. Statelessness and Security

This theme encompasses questions of the impact of statelessness on human security, national and international security. Issues to be explored may include: the impacts of statelessness on economic, social and cultural rights; links between statelessness and forced displacement, human trafficking and arbitrary detention; or the role of nationality and statelessness as they relate to conflict and peace-building and; the impacts of statelessness on minority or indigenous communities.

3. Responses to Statelessness

Academic and policy perspectives examining both the challenges and good practices when responding to statelessness may be considered. Areas of interest include research methods to study statelessness; the function and content of protection mechanisms for stateless persons; addressing protracted statelessness situations; successful efforts to reform nationality laws; and addressing statelessness and its effects in the context of development assistance or disaster relief projects.

Further information about this event, including full details of the call for papers, will be made available through the websites of UNHCR and Tilburg University in the spring of 2013.