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**Institute on
Statelessness and
Inclusion**



Global
Campaign
for **Equal
Nationality
Rights**

STATEMENT

UPR Pre-session on Brunei Darussalam

Delivered by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion

UPR Info Pre-sessions 33rd session

Issues



- Barriers faced by ethnic minority populations in acquiring and confirming citizenship
- Childhood statelessness and barriers to birth registration
- Discriminatory aspects of the naturalisation process
- The impact of statelessness

Recommendations from Second UPR Cycle

Mexico - “*reduction of cases of statelessness*” (accepted)

Iran - “*integration and naturalization of stateless persons who are permanent residents*” (accepted)

However, is yet to take meaningful steps towards implementing these commitments.

Barriers to acquiring and confirming citizenship, faced by ethnic minority populations

- Size and profile of stateless population is unknown.
- The discriminatory provisions, such as article 4 (1) (a) of the *1961 Brunei Nationality Act* are the key causes of statelessness.
- Minorities, such as ethnic Chinese, must apply for citizenship by registration or naturalisation.

Childhood statelessness risks arising from barriers to birth registration

- Indigenous populations in rural areas, such as the Dusun and Iban, continue to experience significant barriers in accessing birth registration.

Discriminatory aspects of the naturalisation process and the impact of statelessness

- Stateless permanent residents in Brunei Darussalam can access some but not all rights.

“My parents purchased land in Belait District more than 30 years ago with their hard-earned money and built a house for our family. Yet none of us are able to legally put our names on the paper work. It's ridiculous that we couldn't add my father's name to the land he purchased and on the house he built - and calls "home.”

- Stateless persons who are not registered as permanent residents are further disadvantaged

Recommendations

1. Reform the *1961 Brunei Nationality Act* to remove provisions that discriminate on the basis of race, in particular article 4 (1) (a);
2. Ensure that stateless persons have their right to a nationality restored;
3. Fully promote, respect, protect and fulfil its obligations towards stateless persons under international human rights law, including those protected under the CEDAW, CRPD and CRC, which includes the right to nationality;

Recommendations



4. Ensure that all stateless persons have equal access government-issued identity documentation and to passports; and,
5. Facilitate universal birth registration by addressing barriers faced by indigenous populations in rural areas, including the Dasun and Iban populations.

Thank you

From all the members of our coalition:

- Statelessness Network Asia Pacific
- The Brunei Project
- The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion
- Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights



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