

Protecting the Human Rights of Stateless Persons

The Equal Rights Trust and The International Commission of Jurists cordially invite you to a side event to the 15th Session of the Human Rights Council on **Statelessness, Discrimination and Human Rights**. The discussion will be informed by the findings of ERT's recent report [*Unravelling Anomaly: Detention, Discrimination and the Protection Needs of Stateless Persons*](#)

Date – 29 September 2010 **Time** – 1.00 to 3.00pm **Venue** – Palais des Nations Room XXVII

Speakers

- Volker Türk – Director of International Protection, UNHCR
- Dimitrina Petrova – Executive Director, ERT
- Jan Borgen – Deputy Secretary General, ICJ
- Amal De Chickera – Head of Statelessness and Nationality projects, ERT

Statelessness is one of the most profound and serious human rights challenges in the world today. Stateless persons are those who have no effective nationality. Faced with immense barriers to legally travel, reside, work, study or receive health care; and living on the dividing line between legality and illegality, millions of stateless persons are highly vulnerable to arbitrary detention, deportation, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and other human rights violations.

In 1949, stateless persons were described as an “anomaly” because legal systems were ill-equipped to deal with them. Sixty years, two international statelessness conventions, an international organisation mandated to address their situation and many human rights treaties later, this anomaly remains unresolved.

In a recently published report entitled *Unravelling Anomaly: Detention, Discrimination and the Protection Needs of Stateless Persons*, The Equal Rights Trust finds that inequality and discrimination lie at the heart of the statelessness problem, as does the eternal tug-of-war between universal human rights and national sovereignty.

The panel will speak about the most crucial issues pertaining to the statelessness challenge and discuss the report's findings and recommendations, and its implications for activists, states and the international community.

For further details, please contact:

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