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INTRODUCTION: Statelessness—A global issue with an Asian epicentre

Statelessness in Asia is driven by ethnic nationalism, displacement and restrictive citizenship regimes. But it's neither inevitable nor irreversible.

A/Prof. Radha Govil & A/Prof. Christoph Sperfeldt



Colonial borders and the production of statelessness in Myanmar, India, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka

Statelessness in Myanmar, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka is rooted in the impact of British colonialism.

Subin Mulmi



Understanding the climate change–statelessness nexus in the Asia Pacific and what to do about it

Climate change is intensifying statelessness in the Asia-Pacific. But there are simple, practical steps that countries in the region can take.

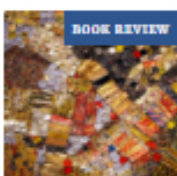
A/Prof. Radha Govil, Hannah Gordon & Aashish Yadav



Why the transfer of stateless refugees by Australia to Nauru is concerning and in breach of international law

Australia should terminate its latest arrangement Nauru, which will have real and significant consequences for stateless people.

Katie Robertson



'Statelessness in Asia' edited by Michelle Foster, Jaclyn Neo & Christoph Sperfeldt

This book addresses a significant research gap—that statelessness exists in contexts devoid of forced migration and prolonged refugee situations.

Antje Missbach

Edition 26, June 2026 Statelessness in Asia



How stateless Rohingya women and children are navigating vulnerability in Thailand and Malaysia

Stateless Rohingya from Myanmar in Thailand and Malaysia live in constant fear of violence, detention and other risks.

Zoe Bell, Bina D'Costa, Michelle Godwin, Amporn Marddent, Khin & Hamidah Abdul Salam



Recognition without sovereignty: Statehood and the fragmentation of Palestine

The recent wave of State recognition of Palestine allows States to claim alignment with international law but may exclude Palestinians from statelessness protection.

Dr. Shabir Qumam



Invisible populations and legal blind spots: Statelessness in Indonesia

Risks of statelessness in Indonesia often arise not from everyday dealings with the state such as birth and marriage registration.

Anak Agung Ayu Nanda Saraswati & Dr Christoph Sperfeldt



Syrian statelessness in transition: Assessing change amid civil war and regime change

Recent regime change in Syria after the civil war (2011-2024) is bringing new, sometimes controversial, changes to address statelessness.

Dr Thomas McGee



The marriage question: How does statelessness impact marriage and family life in Pakistan?

Marriage is at the heart of life in Pakistan, but for undocumented Pakistani Bengalis it's constrained by identity requirements.

A/Prof. Humera Iqbal & Tahera Hasan



INTERVIEW: 'I was stateless in Japan for 32 years'

Lara Tienshi Chen was stateless person in Japan for decades. She now researches and advocates for stateless people.

Prof. Lara Tienshi Chen



Foundlings at risk of statelessness in the Philippines: Progress and challenges

Deserted or abandoned children in the Philippines have citizenship rights, but there are still problems with implementation.

Melvin C. Suarez