

Greetings to everybody present here...

“Statelessness is an evil that has been hidden for too long.” - rightly said by ‘Helene Lambert’

I Arpita Jadav, the delegate of India is very thankful to this committee to give me an opportunity to put my point across “statelessness” and “the right to nationality”.

Nationality Serves as a legal bond between an individual and the state.

According to Article 1 of the 1954 Convention,

1. A ‘stateless person’ is someone who is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law.
2. They are being registered as persons of ‘unknown nationality’ or ‘non-citizens’.
3. Due to this specific predicament, stateless people are dealing with issues, such as lack of education, healthcare and employment, and also amenities that all nationalities are provided with.

But statelessness has its own way of dealing in different parts of the world.

1. In India, the registration of birth of any child is governed by the registrations of birth and death act [1969].and is mandatory. Every newborn is not asked for the origin of their parents if born in India they have right for getting themselves registered.
2. In India, the Passports Act (1967)and framework of Rules (1980)is the only law which recognizes a category of persons by the term 'stateless' for issuing of certificate of identity to a stateless person residing in India, or a foreigner, or a person whose national status is in doubt.
3. India also has bilateral treaty between India and a neighboring nation on the issue of nationality, (1) Indo-Ceylon Pact of 1964. And (2)Persons covered under the Assam Accord,1985.

But, India still has a Glaring Gap that pose a risk of creating statelessness because of its Legal Framework.

And India’s should create -

1. Awareness Campaign for “Registration of Child at Birth”.
2. Centralised Status Determination Authority and Procedures, which was followed by France in the Early 1950.
3. Strong and immediate bilateral agreements on statelessness.

Thank you