



## **Birth Registration of Refugees in ESCAP Member States**

*Side event to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ESCAP CRVS Ministerial Conference (16 – 19 November 2021)*

Date and duration: Monday 8 November 2021, 11:00 – 12:30 BKK time

Platform: Zoom.

To register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltc-yuqz0jHNNH6lmOM2KOeljlz12a7CceHq>

Participants: Invitees to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ESCAP CRVS Ministerial Conference plus registered participants

Organizer: UNHCR

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics provides an opportunity to address birth registration gaps among persons under UNHCR's protection mandate. All States in the ESCAP region are State Parties to the Convention of the Rights of the Child, which provides that children "shall be registered immediately after birth". This wording includes children born to refugees. While these children still face challenges regarding their birth registration, the side event explores how such challenges can be successfully addressed. Speakers from governments and academia will share national best practice examples. UNHCR protection staff will elaborate how UNHCR can support governments to make their birth registration activities among children born to refugee parents operational.

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| 11:00 – 11:15 | Introduction by Mrs. Aurvasi Patel, UNHCR RBAP Head of Protection Service: The role of birth registration in refugee protection   |
| 11:15 – 11:25 | Statement by youth activist, scholar and former refugee Mrs. Safia Ibrahimkel   |
| 11:25 – 12:25 | Best practices in ESCAP Member States regarding the inclusion of birth registration of refugees into national mainstream civil registration systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Central Asia: Mrs. Elvira Azimova, National Human Rights Commissioner in the Republic of Kazakhstan</li><li>- South-East Asia: Asst. Prof. Darunee Paisanpanichkul, Deputy Dean for Legal Research and Service, Faculty of Law, Chiang Mai University, Thailand</li><li>- Pacific Region: Mr. Mark Rowe, UNHCR Multi-Country Office, Canberra</li></ul> |
|               | Panel and debate moderated by Mr. Matthias Reuss, UNHCR RBAP Senior Statelessness Officer   |
| 12:25 – 12:30 | Concluding remarks by Mrs. Aurvasi Patel, UNHCR RBAP: Way forward towards comprehensive birth registration among children of refugees and other persons falling within UNHCR's protection mandate   |