

Advocating Together to Protect Stateless Rohingya

**Side Meeting
Room 4
Wednesday 12 June
13.15 to 14.15**

The Rohingya, a stateless minority from Myanmar have endured decades of persecution, discrimination and abuse. Most recently, following the violence of June and October 2012, large scale internal displacement and segregation took place within Rakhine state of Myanmar and thousands of Rohingya fled to Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia and beyond.

One year after the violence began, the root causes and ongoing humanitarian and human rights concerns within Myanmar remain to be addressed, and the need for reconciliation between communities is being felt acutely. Furthermore, concerns related to the Rohingya's lack of citizenship and their treatment as refugees in third countries remain unanswered.

This meeting focuses on the different characteristics of the Rohingya situation and the role of UNHCR in relation to stateless persons, refugees and internally displaced persons. The objective of the meeting is to explore ways in which NGOs can be more effective in advocating together with UNHCR to protect and assist Rohingya who are internally displaced and refugees in the region, as well as address the root causes of their flight and find solutions to their lack of citizenship.

Moderator:

Amal de Chickera
(The Equal Rights Trust)

Speakers:

The Stateless Rohingya – Tun Khin (Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK)
The Displaced Rohingya -Melanie Teff (Refugees international)
The Rohingya Refugee Exodus – Chris Lewa (The Arakan Project)

The Side Meeting will also provide an opportunity for participating NGOs to sign a joint NGO statement on the human rights protection of stateless Rohingya, one year after the violence began. Copies of the draft statement will be circulated to NGOs beforehand, and will be available at the Consultations.

To receive the draft statement, please email amal.dechickera@equalrightstrust.org