



International Movement ATD Fourth World

Co-Sponsors:

NGO Committee for Social Development

Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y)

Working Group to End Homelessness (TBC)

Virtual side event to the 63rd Commission on Social Development

Concept Note

Title: Keeping the promise of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development by Achieving Legal Identity for All

The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development commits to “creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development” (Part C, Commitment 1) by “implementation of appropriate programs that would entitle and enable people living in poverty and the disadvantaged, especially women, to participate fully and productively in the economy and society” (Commitment 1 (e)). A major component enabling people to participate fully in the economy and society is to ensure that every person has access to legal identity.

Thirty years after Copenhagen, an estimated 850 million people worldwide lack legal identity; with 40% of women in low-income countries lacking identification, according to the World Bank’s ID4D Global Dataset. Discrimination and structural inequalities continue to widen the gulf between the privileged and the most marginalized, pushing people into poverty, or deepening the level of poverty experienced. Government intervention and subsequent lack of Governmental accountability has also left people without access to identity: the dispossession of people experiencing homelessness personal property that has become synonymous with encampment sweeps; State sanction family separation that prohibits family identity/name, and history.

Legal identity is essential to the eradication of poverty and is at the forefront of basic needs, as it provides access to the most fundamental rights: education, health, housing, land rights, voting, and social protection systems. Providing a birth certificate or legal identity for every human being affirms the inalienable right of all children to have access to a name, an identity and to civil registration. Target 16.9 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals commits to provide "legal identity for all by 2030." Leaving no one behind starts with birth registration for every

child, but it also requires that every person has access to legal identity, that reflects their gender identity, and is respectful of family history.

This panel format webinar will take a Human Rights approach to aspects of legal identity, with topics including:

- The intersection between poverty and the lack of legal identity.
- Birth registration for every child and young person.
- How lack of legal identity affects homelessness and access to social protection.
- Family identity severed by State sanctioned separation and how advocates are working to reclaim it.
- The importance of legal identity reflecting gender.

The discussion will also highlight actionable strategies on a local, national, and international level.