



SAVE THE DATE : HYBRID SYMPOSIUM

# Every Child's Right to Identity and Health

20 SEPTEMBER 2022

Urgent attention is needed to address the needs of millions of children who find themselves without crucial elements of their identity such as a birth certificate, nationality and full information about family relations. This symposium focuses on cross-cutting issues and solutions in response to the challenges created by a lack of identity, which can lead to obstacles for the full enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

The child's right to **physical health** may be jeopardised by a lack of identity, as the latter is usually required to access national health systems, and other connected rights such as education, development, social services, social security etc. with greater risk of being sold and trafficked.

Comprehensive information about family origins is essential to ensure the highest attainable standard of health and well-being, including understanding genetic health risks.

In terms of **mental health**, UNICEF's 2021 flagship *On My Mind: Promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health* discusses risks and protective factors and delves into the social determinants that shape mental health and well-being. The very definition of mental health includes a positive sense of identity.

Despite the importance of identity and health as independent and intersecting rights, the opportunity for protective leveraging has not yet been optimised. To this end, this hybrid event will explore through a variety of topics the scope of the right to identity and health (physical and mental) as well as the interactions between access to health and birth registration, nationality and family relations.

This symposium is set up as a **hybrid event**

- webinar to ensure **greatest possible access** where a link will be sent to all participants beginning of September, so please **Save the Date** in your calendars.

- in-person meeting for a limited number of participants, to **facilitate exchanges and networking**. Registrations for the physical meeting will be confirmed in **late August** depending on the Swiss authorities response to the pandemic via email. As such those planning to attend physically are encouraged to make bookings where cancellation is possible **free of cost**.

**REGISTRATION:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_SMTfNcIaRJydy8kFpanFTQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SMTfNcIaRJydy8kFpanFTQ)



## Speakers confirmed with further details to be released soon.

- **Petra de Sutter**  
Deputy Prime Minister Belgium
- **Philip Jaffé**  
CRC Committee member,  
University of Geneva Professor
- **Maud de Boer-Buquicchio**  
Child Identity Protection president,  
UN SR on sale and sexual exploitation  
(2014-2020), Deputy Secretary General,  
Council of Europe
- **Professor Dainius Puras**  
Former UN Special Rapporteur on the right  
to physical and mental health (2014-2020)  
and former CRC Committee
- **Nigel Cantwell**  
International Child Protection consultant
- **Kirsten Di Martino  
& Bhaskar Mishra**  
UNICEF
- **Monika Sandvik**  
Senior Coordinator Statelessness, UNHCR
- **Sabine Rakotomalala**  
Technical Officer, World Health  
Organisation
- **Judge Raul Pangalangan**  
International Criminal Court Judge  
(2015-2020)
- **Tanja E.J. Kleinsorge**  
Head of the Secretariat of the PACE  
Committee on Social Affairs,  
Health and Sustainable Development
- **Laura van Waas**  
Co-Director of Institute  
on Statelessness and Inclusion
- **Pia MacRae**  
CEO, Consortium for Street Children
- **Matilda Branson**  
Policy and Advocacy Manager,  
Girls Not Brides  
Health and Sustainable Development

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### FURTHER INFORMATION:

[www.child-identity.org](http://www.child-identity.org)  
or [info@child-identity.org](mailto:info@child-identity.org)

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