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Imma Guerras-Delgado

Advisor on Children’s Rights

Office of the High Commission on Human Rights

E: registry@ohchr.org, cc: iguerras-delgado@ohchr.org

Dear Ms. Guerras-Delgado

The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) is one of the largest international organizations for rural and farming women with over 460 societies in more than 70 countries. One of our objectives is to raise the standard of living for rural women and families through education, training and community development programmes.

ACWW has been an NGO with special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947.

We wish to bring to your attention that during our 2013 International Triennial Conference in Chennai, India the following resolution was passed:

***Registration of Births:***

***Be it resolved that ACWW member societies urge their governments to record without prejudice the births of all children born within their jurisdiction to ensure that all children are recognised as citizens.***

While we understand that many governments are reluctant to give citizenship/passports to children born within their jurisdiction, this should not prevent the governments from giving the babies the dignity of a birth certificate that includes a name, a date of birth, a place of birth, a mother’s name and a father’s name if available. Innocent children should not be made to suffer a life time of indignities because of government policies.

Children all over the world are prevented from leading a dignified and productive life because they lack documentation to attend school, receive medical assistance, cross borders from conflict zones, and as they reach adulthood are not considered persons.

Governments need to take responsibility and establish policy to ensure that births are recorded without prejudice to enhance their own dignity as well as those of human beings within their borders.

Yours truly,

Sharon

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