

# THINK OF OTHERS

*The Arts and Culture Experience*



**20 WORLD CONFERENCE  
24 ON STATELESSNESS**  
SOLIDARITY . KNOWLEDGE . CHANGE

**26-29 February 2024**  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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## فِكْرٌ بغيرِك

وأنتِ تُعدُّ فطورك، فِكْرٌ بغيرِك  
(لا تنسِ قوت الحمام)

وأنتِ تخوضُ حروبك، فِكْرٌ بغيرِك  
(لا تنسِ مَنْ يطلبون السلام)

وأنتِ تسدد فاتورة الماء، فِكْرٌ بغيرِك  
(مَنْ يرضعون الغمام)

وأنتِ تعودُ إلى البيت، بيتك، فِكْرٌ بغيرِك  
(لا تنسِ شعب الخيام)

وأنتِ تنام وتُحصى الكواكب، فِكْرٌ بغيرِك  
(ثمّة مَنْ لم يجد حيزاً للمنام)

وأنتِ تحرّر نفسك بالاستعارات، فِكْرٌ بغيرِك  
(مَنْ فقدوا حقهم في الكلام)

وأنتِ تفكر بالآخرين البعيدين، فِكْرٌ بنفسك  
(قُل: ليتني شمعة في الظلام)

محمود درويش

## THINK OF OTHERS

*As you prepare your breakfast, think of others  
(do not forget the pigeon's food).*

*As you conduct your wars, think of others  
(do not forget those who seek peace).*

*As you pay your water bill, think of others  
(those who are nursed by clouds).*

*As you return home, to your home, think of others  
(do not forget the people of the camps).*

*As you sleep and count the stars, think of others  
(those who have nowhere to sleep).*

*As you liberate yourself in metaphor, think of  
others  
(those who have lost the right to speak).*

*As you think of others far away, think of yourself  
(say: "If only I were a candle in the dark").*

Mahmoud Darwish  
Translated by Mohammed Shaheen



# Message from the Arts Curators

***“Our societies sometimes struggle with the question of what art might be for. Here the answer feels simple: art is a weapon against despair. It is a tool with which to alleviate a sense of crushing isolation and uniqueness. It provides common ground where the sadness in me can, with dignity and intelligence, meet the sadness in you.”***

*Alan de Botton, A Therapeutic Journey*

The sadness in much of the art presented at the conference today comes with an equally strong sense of power and hope. Hope that what we see, hear and engage in over the next four days – told through visual and oral stories of human suffering and resilience – not only provokes but moves us. Moves us to learn more, to stand in solidarity with those with lived experiences and with one another, and to strive, in whatever areas we contribute, to effect change.

The process of curating for the conference has been an educational one for the both of us and through it we have had the pleasure to speak with and meet some courageous and extraordinary individuals and communities from across the globe. We have to thank them all for sharing their art with us.

Our thanks also to the entire conference team, and to Amal and Melinda in particular whom we have collaborated with closely over many months, for their deep insights into this important work, and for their patience and sense of humour as we sought to create a programme with the right balance of truth, creativity and storytelling that will hopefully illuminate and inspire.

We are not alone.

We stand together.

In solidarity,

Jo & Susie Kukathas  
Co-curators, Think of Others

# The Irresistible Potential to Think of Others

## A message from the Conference Organisers

The arts – poetry, visual art, theatre, film, dance, music – carry within them, the irresistible potential to touch our souls, open our minds and move our hearts. A delicately poised word, a haunting musical note, a surprising image, can catch us off guard, draw us in, make us smile or cry, and penetrate our presumptions and prejudices.

Those of us whose bread and butter is academia, advocacy and activism, train ourselves to engage with information – reports, data, speeches, even conversations - through the prism of our strategies, priorities and missions. To simultaneously build our arguments against the inconvenient facts and narratives that undermine our hypothesis, or challenge our campaign's objectives, even as we encounter them. In other words, to not give them a fair chance.

When we engage with good, meaningful art, we are more likely to be drawn in, drop our guard and forget about institutional agendas. We encounter art in our primal state, as human beings creatively interacting with the creative outputs of other human beings. We allow ourselves to be more vulnerable, more real, more honest. We slow down and reflect. If we learn to stay with these emotions, draw from them and let them enrich us, we give ourselves permission to shape how we feel and think. We build empathy. We may even see the value of bringing more art into our work.

Think of Others has been thoughtfully put together by an experienced creative team. We don't see it as merely a value-add to the conference, but as an integral, crucially important part of the programme. The name 'Think of Others' is the title of a typically thought-provoking and beautiful poem by renowned Palestinian poet, Mahmoud Darwish. The poem, which you will find at the front of this catalogue, is an invitation for us to grow, share and transform. As such, it embodies the conference themes of 'knowledge' (in this context, greater awareness of self and others), 'solidarity' (greater empathy for others) and 'change' (applying awareness and empathy with transformative effect). The simplicity of the message 'think of others', which a parent would gently remind their child to do, goes to the heart of what our work, and our movement is ultimately about – community.

We are lucky to have with us some wonderful artists, many with lived experience of statelessness, who will be exhibiting, screening and performing their work. They will also be running workshops, speaking on panels and chronicling the Conference. Further, we have collected important works of artists who cannot be with us in person, a reality we are all sadly too familiar with.

This catalogue provides an overview of the different artists and artworks of Think of Others. The Conference Programme provides further information about the arts workshops and artists speaking at sessions. We encourage you to make the time to engage with and truly experience Think of Others. To attend a workshop you normally would not. To watch a film screening. Most importantly, to speak to the artists. We hope that Think of Others provokes thought, builds empathy, unlocks inspiration and pushes us to think a little differently about statelessness, our field, what knowledge, solidarity and change can mean, and the potential of art in relation to all of these.

Thank you!

Melinda and Amal  
On behalf of the Conference Organising Team





# Part I Visual Arts



# 1. Drawn to Home & a Game of Snakes and Ladders

*by Family Frontiers*

Family Frontiers is a Malaysian non-profit organisation pioneering the advocacy of equal citizenship rights for Malaysian women and binational families. Family Frontiers has prepared two interactive artworks, Drawn to Home and A Game of Snakes and Ladders specifically for the World Conference on Statelessness

## Drawn to Home

### **Artist Statement:**

The Malaysian women affected by gender-discriminatory nationality laws had, at some point in their lives, left their homes in Malaysia and birthed their children across borders and seas. Drawn to Home explores the journey of leaving and returning; the connections to their homeland that these women clung to while overseas, through everyday objects that hold significance for them; and the grappling of 'home' and belonging in the face of stark discrimination by their own country and how their inability to pass down citizenship to their children has shaped their lives.







## 2. Kaghazi Kashtiyan (Paper Boats): The Pakistani Bengali Story

*Curated by: Humera Iqbal, Anushay Malik, Axel Lucas and Adan Shaikh*

### **Curatorial Statement:**

Kaghazi Kashtiyan or Paper Boats, is an art exhibition offering a window into the experiences of the Pakistani Bengali community. This community has deep roots in the city of Karachi, Pakistan. The term 'Kaghazi Kashtiyan' (the Urdu phrase for Paper Boats) represents the community's connection to the sea as fishermen, but also signifies the precarious, paper-like fragility of their legal status in Pakistan because of the challenges they face around documentation and citizenship. The works come from the Partition of Identity Project, based at University College London and the Lahore University of Management Sciences and led by Dr Humera Iqbal and Dr Anushay Malik. We present a selection of pieces from the larger exhibition at the conference. We also launch and exhibit our comic book 'Think in your Heart ...Think' - by Kremena Dimitrova, Humera Iqbal and Khel School and published by Markings Publishers.

### **Artists Featured:**

1. Adan Shaikh
2. Abdullah Khan and Nabiha Rehan
3. Abdul Rehman
4. Areeba Aslam
5. Kremena Dimitrova

## The Others

by Adan Shaikh

### **Artist Statement:**

The Others is an animated social commentary that depicts the impact of having one's identity taken away.

The animation explores issues of 'othering', citizenship, and statelessness faced by members of the Pakistani Bengali community living in Karachi including those from Machar Colony. Everyday struggles such as accessing education and employment opportunities are shown. The film also delves into the impact of being considered foreign or 'alien', labels often associated with this group.

### **About the Artist:**

Adan Shaikh is a Karachi based illustrator, new media, and visual artist who works with both digital and traditional art mediums. Her artistic practices primarily focus on gender, class, and identity discrimination prevalent in Pakistan. Adan documents and navigates the lack of safe public spaces for women and the role of women in a patriarchal society. She graduated from the Indus Valley School of Arts and Architecture in 2022.





## **Aamai Bhashali Re**

*by Abdullah Khan and Nabiha Rehan  
performed by Pakistani Bengali musician - Abdul Haleem*

### **Artist Statement:**

This performance is a rendition of the popular poem by Bengali writer Jasimuddin. 'Aamai Bhashali Re' captures the importance of the rivers and seas to sailors and fishermen across the subcontinent, many of whom belong to the Pakistani Bengali community.

### **About the Artists:**

Abdullah Khan is a Pakistani independent filmmaker who explores unconventional topics. Khan's aim is to explore narratives that seem simple from the outside but at the same time hold a complex structure within. Abdullah graduated from the Indus Valley School of Arts and Architecture in 2022. Nabiha Rehan is an independent filmmaker who explores themes related to the complexity of human thought and emotion. Her work follows a naturalistic style and aims to give a new perspective on challenging topics. She graduated from the Indus Valley School of Arts and Architecture in 2022.



## Jalpari

by Abdul Rehman

Enamel on slate, 8"x6", 2022

### **Artist Statement:**

This piece was inspired by the connection between human-beings and the sea. While drawing a human figure and thinking of the fishing and the sea, Rehman was able to merge the two together to create "jalpari".

### **About the Artist:**

Abdul Rehman is a self-taught artist based in Machar Colony, Karachi. He attends school at Imkaan Welfare Organization's learning and recreational centre, Khel.





# **Monsters Behind Vines: A Collection of Tales**

*by Areeba Aslam*

Online and Print publication, 2022

## **Artist Statement:**

Storytelling conveys the culture, history, and values that unite people. The artist collected tales either imagined or shared by children from the Pakistani Bengali community. While speaking with students from Khel school in Machar Colony, she heard accounts of jalparis (mermaids), jalparas (mermen), jinn and bhoots (ghosts). The stories bear invaluable information about spaces, culture and the imaginations of young minds.

## **About the Artist:**

Areeba Aslam is an illustrator and designer who graduated from the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture based in Karachi Pakistan in 2022. Her interest lies in visual storytelling, with a focus on children's literature.



## **“Think in your heart... think”**

*by Kremena Dimitrova and Humera Iqbal*

Online and Print publication, 2023



### **Artist Statement:**

This collaboration between social psychologist Humera Iqbal and illustrator-as-historian Kremena Dimitrova, is a 15 double-page limited edition comic book published by Markings.

In May 2022, Humera ran an arts therapy-based workshop with teenagers from Khel School in Machar Colony, at which each young person developed stories around the topic, “My Life in Machar Colony.” These provided the basis for a script produced by Kremena, which she brought to life by interweaving the young people’s drawings together with archival material. Traversing the personal and political, this carefully constructed comic book and educational resource, is available in English and Urdu.

### **About the Artist:**

Kremena Dimitrova is a London based illustrator-as-historian, lecturer in Visual Culture, and practice-based PhD researcher in decolonising history through comics at the University of Portsmouth. She specialises in socially engaged and site-specific creative interventions and visual storytelling in the cultural, heritage, and education sectors.

### **About the Researcher:**

Dr Humera Iqbal is Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Psychology at the Thomas Coram Research Unit, University College London. Her research centres on the identity, historical and lived experiences of migrant and minority families and young people. This includes citizenship experiences and statelessness, social representations, and social activism.

### 3. Life Afloat: A living exhibition of a community and a home once upon a time...

*by Molylin Khleang / Women Peacemakers Cambodia*

#### **Curatorial Statement:**

Thousands of ethnic Vietnamese families have lived afloat along Cambodia's Tonle Sap River over generations. Often viewed as Vietnamese by Cambodia and as Cambodian by Vietnam, they are effectively stateless. Deprived of access to education and public healthcare, unable to own land, and subject to public discrimination, the community has traditionally faced isolation and struggled while living on the margins. More recently, a fierce campaign to relocate them from the river has caused many to move onto the shore or disappear altogether. In 2019, residents of such a floating community, then vibrant, turned to photography to document their daily lives. They captured scenes representing their concept of "home". Today, this community no longer exists as seen here. This exhibition offers a glimpse into the sense of place experienced by river-dwelling residents. For them, this is their home. This is their Life Afloat.

#### **About the artist and curator:**

Molylin Khleang is an artist and the curator of this exhibition. She spent time with the community, employing a visually ethnographic approach to convey imagery and a sense of place through placement and adaptive installation. The photographers behind this work are community residents. They were provided with cameras and asked to capture images of what they felt represented their home and have decided to remain anonymous.



## 4. A Chance to Breathe

*presented by Fortify Rights, featuring Omal Khair, Dil Kayas and Azimul Hasson*



*Dil Kayas*



*Omal Khair*



*Azimul Hasson*

### **Artist's Statement:**

The three photographers are inaugural graduates of a “media fellowship” supported by Fortify Rights and Doha Debates. They were equipped with mobile phones and trained in photography and Instagram. They have since been visually documenting life in the sprawling refugee camps of Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. A Chance to Breathe showcases a selection of their photography. Through their work, you will see the lived experience of Rohingya people through Rohingya lenses.

### **About the Artists:**

Omal Khair, Dil Kayas, and Azimul Hasson are three survivors of Myanmar’s 2017 genocide of the Rohingya. They are all Rohingya from Myanmar. For years, Myanmar authorities targeted the Rohingya for genocide, forcing the artists and hundreds of thousands of others from their homes in Rakhine State.



## 5. International art contest for minority rights on statelessness

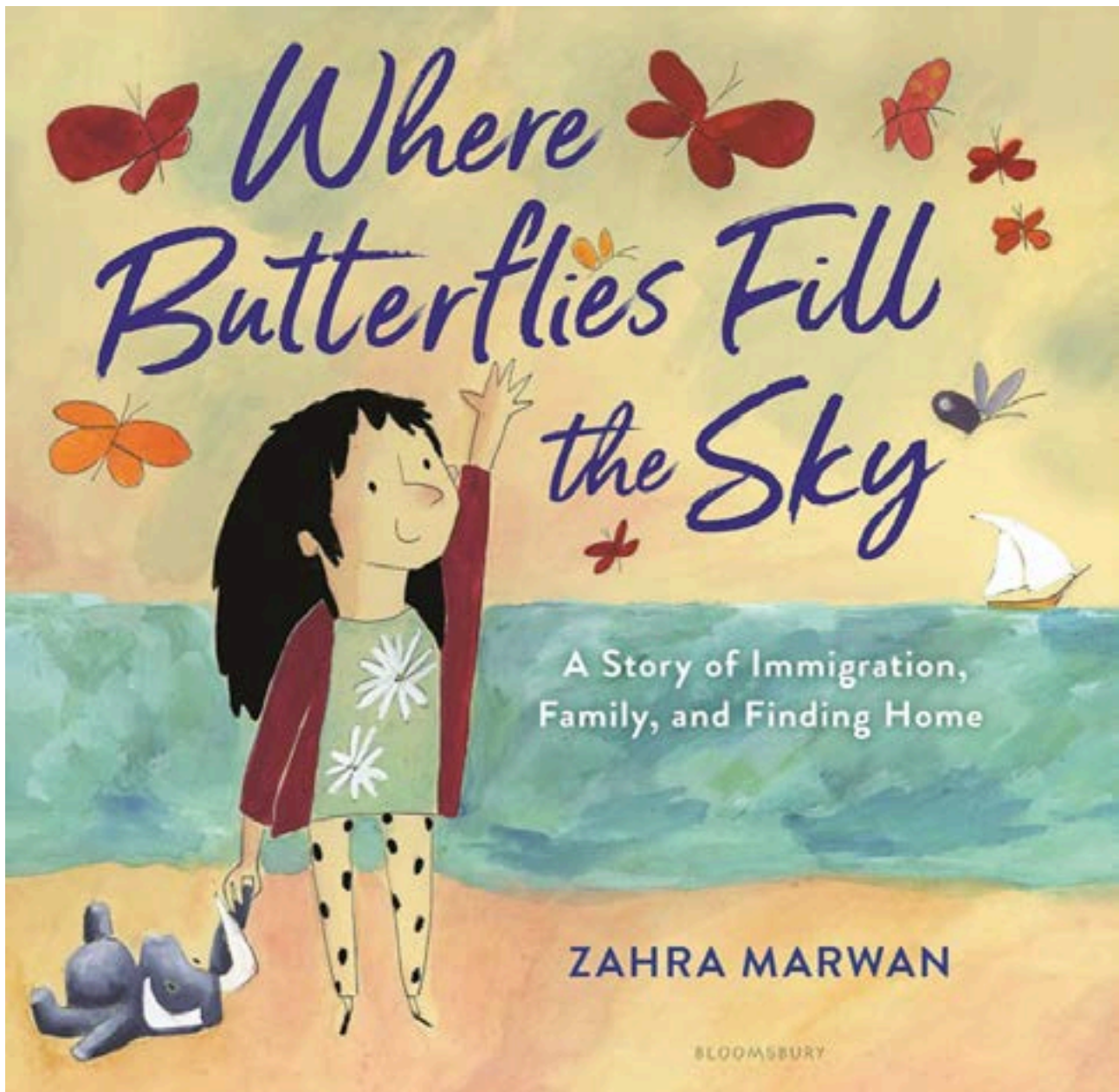
*Presented by the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Freemuse and Minority Rights Group International (MRG), featuring award recipients Zahra Hassan Marwan, Jean Philippe Moiseau and Abdullah and Honourable mentions Brang Li, Amin Taasha, Naser Moradi and Mawa Rannahr*

To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and the 8th Anniversary of the UNHCR #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness, these organisations jointly organised the International Art Contest for Minority Artists working on Statelessness Themes. Find out more [here](#).

### **The seven award recipients of the contest were:**

1. Zahra Hassan Marwan - Award recipient
2. Jean Philippe Moiseau - Award recipient
3. Abdullah - Award recipient
4. Brang Li - Honourable mention
5. Amin Taasha - Honourable mention
6. Naser Moradi - Honourable mention
7. Mawa Rannahr - Honourable mention





### **Zahra Hassan Marwan (artist and author)**

Born to a Kuwaiti mother and a stateless father, Zahra Hassan Marwan self-identifies as a member of the Ayam minority of Kuwait, and was herself stateless for a large part of her life. Currently living in the United States where she was eventually granted citizenship, Zahra works as a traditional artist, using watercolour and ink to explore complex themes such as statelessness, belonging, and homesickness, pride in one's cultural and linguistic identity, and reclaiming roots. Zahra's children's book entitled "Where Butterflies Fill the Sky: a Story of Immigration, Family and Finding Home" (Bloomsbury Publishing, NYC) offers a moving and deeply personal story of how people learn to live as stateless.



**Jean Philippe Moiseau (plastic and recycling artist)**

Belonging to the Haitian minority in the Dominican Republic, Jean Philippe Moiseau is a plastic and recycling artist who explores the complex forms of discrimination facing Haitian communities and their descendants born in the Dominican Republic through his paintings, sculptures, engraved metal objects and masks. Jean Philippe's masks unveil the challenges of statelessness for Haitian minorities in the Dominican Republic, including the negative stereotypes that can affect them.





### **Abdullah (photographer and videographer)**

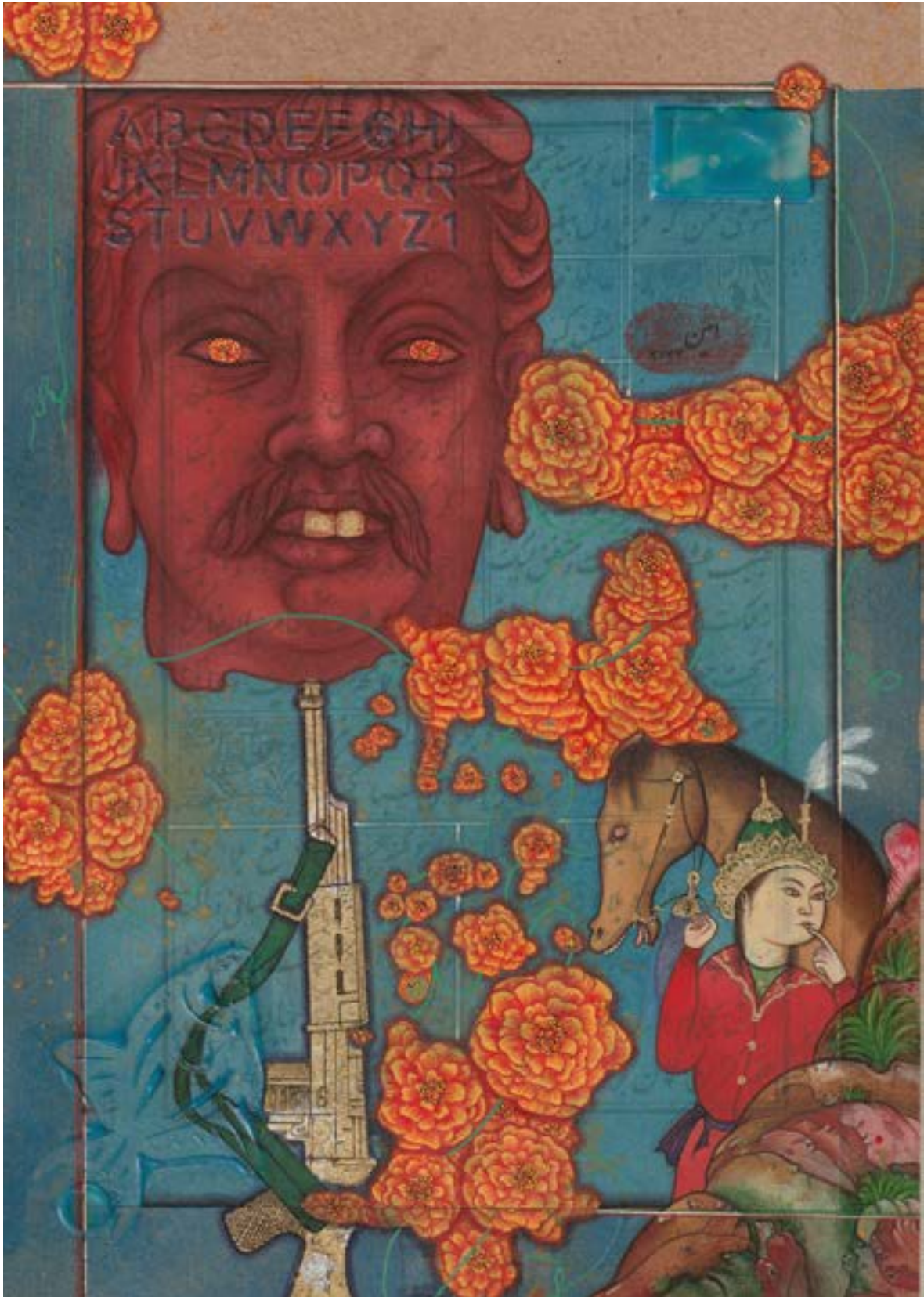
A Rohingya photographer and videographer, Abdullah was born stateless in Myanmar to stateless parents. Using a documentary approach, his photographs chronicle the daily experiences, everyday struggles and embodied stories of Rohingya children, women and men in one of the world's largest refugee camps. Abdullah not only manages to capture the tangible effects of discrimination, statelessness and forced displacement for the Rohingya, but he is also mindful of the bravery and emotions of those he portrays.



### **Brang Li (painter and visual artist)**

Brang Li is a Kachin (Jingphaw) artist from Myitkyina, the capital city of Kachin State in Northern Myanmar. Brang Li's artwork explores the dire consequences of the civil wars in Myanmar and the plight of those affected by the violence, including the Kachin people. The artist describes his artwork as a "tribute to those impacted by war", which can increase the risks of people becoming stateless.





**Amin Taasha (painter and visual artist)**

Born in the Bamiyan province of Afghanistan and belonging to the Hazara ethnic minority, Amin Taasha learned at age five about the craft of carpet-making after moving to Kabul with his family due to the fear of the Taliban. Amin's artwork incorporates aspects of abstraction and miniature painting. It depicts personal and embodied memories of his homeland, to which he hasn't returned due to his Hazara identity and artistic engagement.





### **Naser Moradi (painter)**

Naser Moradi is an Afghan artist belonging to the Hazara ethnic minority, who left Afghanistan in 2011 to escape conflict. Without access to art supplies, he first experimented with painting in 2016, with instant coffee powder and water on a paper plate, while detained in an immigration centre in Australia. Naser's art represents discrimination, incarceration, loss, sacrifice, grief, uncertainty; but also, the will to survive, the hope on the horizon, the dream of safety and refuge, the promise of belonging and peace.



### **Mawa Rannahr (painter)**

Born in Soviet Central Asia, painter Mawa Rannahr became stateless after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. Mawa uses painting to connect her deep emotions and pains with her conviction that no human being should ever be reduced to their nationality status. Her painting entitled “The Weight of Paper” depicts the burdensome administrative processes that most stateless minorities must go through in their daily lives.





## 6. Economic Exile / Migration Ambition

*by Mandlenkosi Mavengere*

### **Artist Statement:**

Mandlenkosi Mavengere's work is a study of the people who choose to migrate and the ambitions that drive them to do so. The artworks reflect on socio-economic migration and the shift of personal identity, whilst exploring the journey of wealth-seeking, driven by ambition to provide for one's families. Mavengere utilises the 'Gondruala' – a fictitious currency used as a backdrop in his artworks.

### **About the Artist:**

Mandlenkosi Mavengere was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Mavengere works in printing and painting. He moved to South Africa and attended the Artist Proof Studio printmaking course for 3 years. His paintings on money became prominent after an internship at William Kentridge studio. Over the years, his work has been exhibited at notable galleries, art fairs, auctions and private collections; locally and internationally.

## 7. Ek Khaale - Once Upon a Time: The Rohingya

by Greg Constantine

### Artist Statement

Ek Khaale, which is the Rohingya expression for Once Upon A Time, is a co-participatory visual storytelling, history and memory project ([www.ekkhaale.org](http://www.ekkhaale.org)) launched by documentary photographer Greg Constantine in 2021. Greg has collaborated with Rohingya to find, digitise and present a visual history and identity that intends to challenge narratives and re-shape the visual representation of the community and their history.

### About the Artist

Greg Constantine is a documentarian, photographer and storyteller, who has documented the abuse and persecution of the Rohingya for over 17 years. Greg is currently documenting social histories of Rohingya through archives and private collections, but mostly contributed by Rohingya.





## 8. I Took the Sea to Come to See You

by Saiful Huq Omi

### Artist Statement

Omi captures his deep connection with the sea and the Rohingya community. In 2014, Omi had a near death experience after a boat accident. He was saved by Rohingya fishermen who carried him ashore. The sea has remained a part of him as has his link with the Rohingya people. In his latest photographic work, he takes an experimental approach to photographing the community which is deeply impacted by the memories of violence, accounts and stories that have been shared with him since 2008.

### About the Artist

Saiful Huq Omi is a Bangladeshi photographer, filmmaker, educator, editor, and activist. Since the beginning of his career, he has worked on human rights and political issues. His first book, on the rise of political Islam in Bangladesh, was banned. He has published seven other books, the last three on the Rohingya Genocide.



## 9. The Rohingya Refugee Life - Hope and History

by *Abul Kalam*



### **Artist Statement**

Abul Kalam's work captures everyday moments in Rohingya camps in Bangladesh. He believes in the importance of documenting the struggles of this community and has been deeply impacted by the work of his mentor and friend – photographer Saiful Haq Omi. Abul Kalam's own personal history shines through in his work. He reflects on his lack of a passport impacting his practice and limiting his ability to photograph a wider space. The camp is his world, and his world is tiny.

### **About the Artist**

Abul Kalam came to Bangladesh in 1996 when he was only 14. While working for UNHCR, he was introduced to photographer Saiful Huq Omi in 2008. Having a profound interest in photography and inspired by Omi, Abul took photography lessons from him and became an accomplished amateur photographer by 2015. Covering the 2017 genocide made him a professional, winning him an award abroad and getting him international assignments. Abul Kalam now lives in Kutupalong camp, Cox's Bazar, with his family.



## 10. Inherited state: Documenting statelessness (Digital exhibit)

*by William Daniels*

### **Artist Statement**

William Daniels has been meeting stateless -or at risk of statelessness- communities in different countries. One theme kept overshadowing the places, subjects and situations he documented: identity. It obsessed the people he met, justified discrimination and atrocities; and naturally imbued his photographs. William witnessed how populism can use a people's sense of unity and belonging to a community, manipulate it to foment a so-called patriotic cause, and redefine it to construct an enemy – either real or fantasised.

### **About the Artist**

William Daniels is a French photographer working on long-term documentary projects, with a particular interest in people's quest for a sense of identity and territories prone to chronic instability. He contributes, as a photojournalist, to National Geographic magazine, the National Geographic Society and other international media such as Le Monde diplomatique.



## 11. The Bright Episode (Digital exhibit)

by Soham (Sabin Prakash Sainju)

### Artist Statement

These paintings depict refugee and stateless children's life situations, resilience, aspirations and their transition into the bright episode of their lives. A common theme in all the paintings is that they capture happiness and the bright side of life. Positive thoughts attract pleasing life situations.

### About the Artist

Soham is Nepalese artist with a passion for working with Refugee & Stateless Children within UNHCR/ UNICEF.







## 12. Nowhere (Digital exhibition)

*by Tejal Khanna*

### **Artist Statement**

This painting depicts the life of stateless refugees, who are represented by the tennis ball that has turned from green (full life) to black and white (deprived of full life). The head of the tennis racquet represents the world divided into sovereign states who keep these stateless refugees at a distance by denying them the right to a nationality.

### **About the Artist**

Tejal Khanna is an Assistant Professor of Political Science, GSHS at GITAM University, Bengaluru Campus, India.



# Part II

# POETRY

For the full Compilation of Poems,  
scan this QR Code:





## Mayyu Ali and the contributors to the Jasbaa exhibition

*“Even when I watch the sunrise,  
I am not a living like you are  
Without the fertility of hope I live,  
Just like a sandcastle”*

Mayyu is a Rohingya poet and author of Exodus, L'effacement and The White Elephant. He is a co-founder and editor at Art Garden Rohingya, a community website focusing on poetry and art. He is pursuing his master's degree at the University of Waterloo, Canada.

Mayyu served as a curator of the Jasbaa exhibition in Canada. Jasbaa, meaning 'passion' in Rohingya, is a window into the passion, traditions and resilience of the Rohingya community. Having faced persecution for decades in Myanmar, over one million Rohingya currently live in refugee camps in Bangladesh. Showcasing art produced by Rohingya refugees, Jasbaa examines the use of creativity as a form of resistance against oppression and celebrates Rohingya survival, resilience and self-expression.

The Think of Others programme features the poems of **Thida Shania, Yasmin Ullah, Ro Anamul Hasan** and **Pacifist Farooq**, all Rohingya poets featured in the Jasbaa exhibition:

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### Mona Kareem

*Now, Lot's wife pays the price for her fleeting nostalgia, her passion for the past, which compelled her to take one last look at Sodom. Looking back, she barely managed to archive the colors of her life, barely captured the morning's scent before it went missing, together with geography. She barely swallowed the language whose extinction would render her dreams obsolete. At the border checkpoint, a migrant is not allowed to occupy herself with anything but the present moment. They said that in turning back, she had compromised the identity of the Lord. Or that in her gut, she believed Sodom innocent, wrongly battered to dust.*

Mona is a stateless poet born in Kuwait, whose work has been internationally acclaimed for its power and immediacy ever since she published her first collection at the age of 14. She is the author of three poetry collections, including 'I Will Not Fold These Maps'.

## **Abdul Kalam Azad**

*I live with a strange fear  
I cannot sleep*

*Night glitters and my heart flutters  
My ears pop like a rabbit's*

*On this new moon night, I see  
Every day on my calendar stained with blood  
You have seen blood all your life, I tell my heart  
Why are you scared of blood?*

Abdul is a scholar activist and one of the leading members of the Miya Poetry Movement, which highlights the stories of people affected by statelessness. These poems are composed in a local dialect and then translated and often transformed to other formats like films, audio recitation, public reading of poetry among others.

---

## **Amal de Chickera**

*You are my world, my little one,  
Your smile, your voice, your shining eyes.  
I am so sorry, my little one,  
When I see you now, I hear their cries.*

Amal is a human rights lawyer and activist. He is an occasional poet and writer. He has (co) authored children's books and graphic novels to bring the challenge of statelessness to new audiences. He is a founding member of Stages - a Sri Lankan theatre group.

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## **Yousif M. Qasmiyeh**

*Once the name is misspelt, attending to the crack becomes a matter of time.  
My name – is it not the antibody taking the body's hand?  
When the Officer asked again for my name, I could not but laugh.  
Since when are names inanimate?  
When I was left to fend for myself I hid in my name.*

Yousif is a Palestinian poet, researcher and translator. He is a Joint-Lead of the Baddawi Camp Lab as part of the Imagining Futures research project; Refugee Hosts' Writer-in-Residence; and a doctoral researcher at the University of Oxford whose research examines the archive, time and containment in refugee literature in Arabic and English.

### **Aria Iqbaal**

*Buy a hope  
With my tears  
All the laws  
Bring us here*

Aria is an ambitious dreamer facing challenges. It's not about how fast she chases her dreams. It's about turning them into reality with patience.

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### **Mohammad Hasan**

*Citizenship is Essential: To express solidarity with the millions of refugees and stateless people of the world.*

Mohammad is a Human Rights Defender & an Urdu poet. He was stateless in Bangladesh

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### **Benjamin Alizada**

*Dance until your dance becomes a symbol of freedom  
Intoxicating you, becoming the thoughts of the sleepless  
You yourself are a coup and you have thousands of words in your heart  
Get up, get up with all your words, this time dance with death.*

Benjamin is a 27 year old Afghan refugee in Malaysia. He has lived in Malaysia for 5 years. He is a poet and a writer in the Farsi language.



**Mwaffaq Al-Hajjar**

*I have no stamp  
nor a destination to send meaning to my people,  
but I have written about the land  
and about the details of  
breaking free from the myths of the clan.*

Mwaffaq is a Syrian poet and engineer. This poem is from his book *Poetic Entropy* published when he was a refugee in Malaysia.

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**Nellie Jo David**

*They've taken our old villages  
and turned them into  
Strategic military vantage points  
And  
Practice for killing  
(in wars abroad).*

Nellie is an activist and the co-founder of the O'odham Anti Border Collective, a grassroots group dedicated to maintaining connections despite colonial barriers. Nellie works to strengthen Indigenous rights and autonomy on the imposed U.S./Mexico borderlands intersecting the Tohono O'odham Nation.

## **Chandran Kukathas**

*Imagine if you needed a visa to fall in love  
Would you have to make an application to the Office of  
Love Affairs?  
Would you need to specify with whom you wished to fall in love?  
Would you need to supply details of your past dalliances?  
Would your love have to explain why other lovers wouldn't do?*

Chandran is a Malaysian-born Australian political theorist and the author of several books. Until 2019 he was Head of the Department of Government at the London School of Economics, where he held a Chair in Political Theory.

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## **Dhakshayini Sooriyakumaran**

*My name is a spell  
It can't be held  
In the mouths of oppressors  
Reminiscent of territories  
Of bodies, invaded  
The database collects my name  
But cannot understand it  
Yet the database decides  
Where I will go in this life*

Dhakshayini is an expert on AI, surveillance and digital rights, and an advocate on tech regulation, particularly with regard to disinformation and data protection. They are a PhD candidate at the ANU School of Regulation and Global Governance, and former Director of Tech Policy at Reset Australia. Dhakshayini is a Tamil person from Illankai (known as Sri Lanka).

### **Shahd Qannam**

*I am no poet  
nor am I a writer  
I am a human burdened with anger and grief,  
seeking refuge in the fragile art of translating these emotions into words  
The echoes of injustice have become my pen,  
and the cries of the stateless have become my ink*

Shahd is a Palestinian researcher and PhD Candidate in Law at City University of London. She is also a Programme Officer at the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. Additionally, Shahd serves as a legal consultant on projects concerning the right to nationality in the context of Palestinian statelessness.

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### **Masuma Tavakoli**

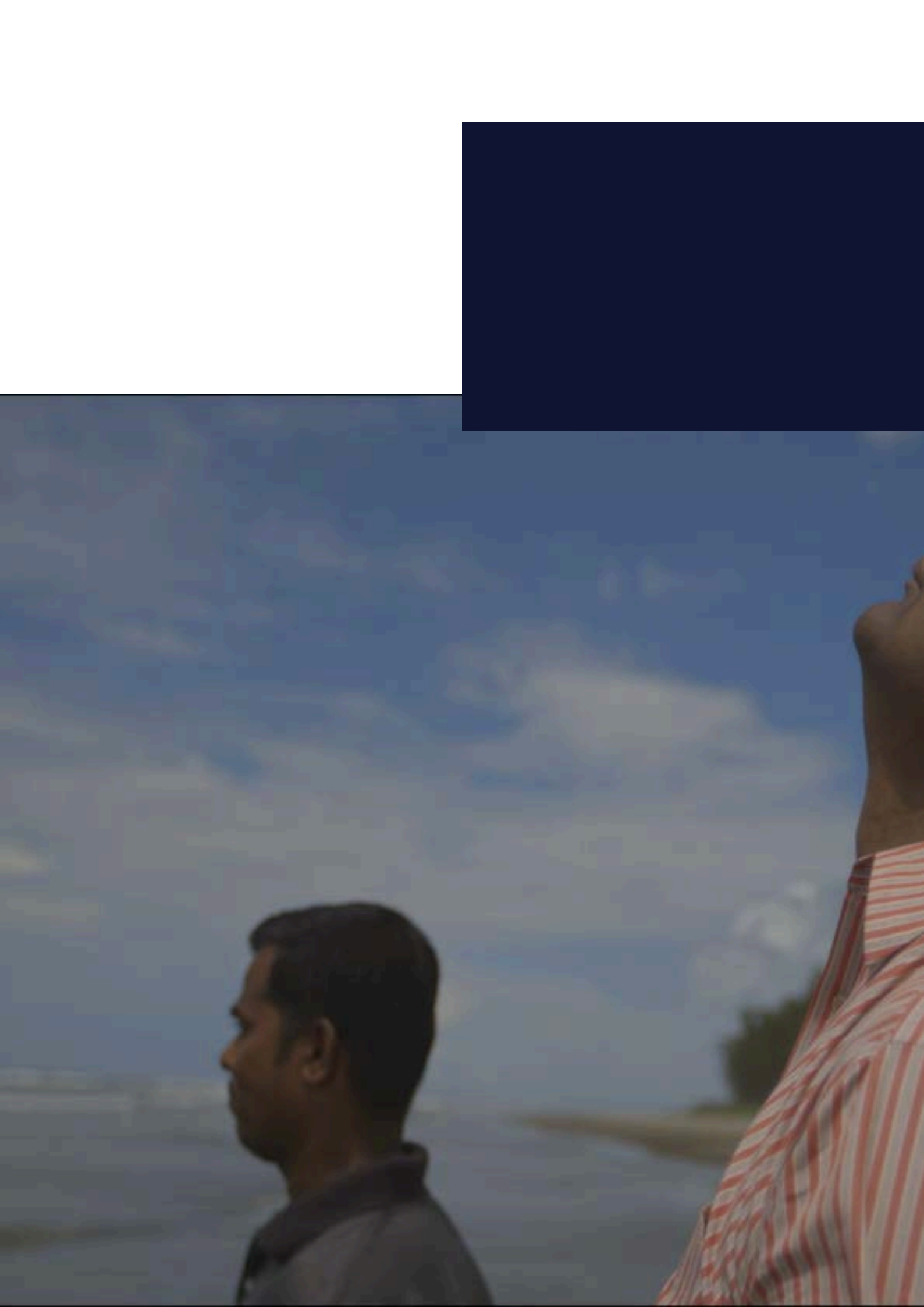
*From our faces,  
We wiped the debris of grief,  
Left home,  
And became the fellow traveller of the wind.*

*Our destination is salvation and flowing,  
And in the end,  
reaching.*

*(Translated by Amin Kamrani)*

Masuma is a poet, and an Afghan refugee living in Malaysia.





# Part III

# AUDIO VISUAL



# 1. Feature Film Screenings

All Feature Films will be screened in LT 9.

## Life is Beautiful

26 February, 7pm at LT 9



*“Life is Beautiful” tells the story of how Mohamed Jabaly fought for his rights as a filmmaker and Palestinian when stranded in Norway due to circumstances beyond his control.*

**Directed by:** Mohamed Jabaly

**Produced by:** Sarah Winge-Sørensen

**Recommended rating:** 12 years and up.

### **About the filmmakers:**

Mohamed Jabaly is a Palestinian filmmaker, producer, and artist from Gaza City, based in Northern Norway.

Sarah Winge-Sørensen is a documentary film producer at Stray Dog Productions, based in Oslo, Norway.



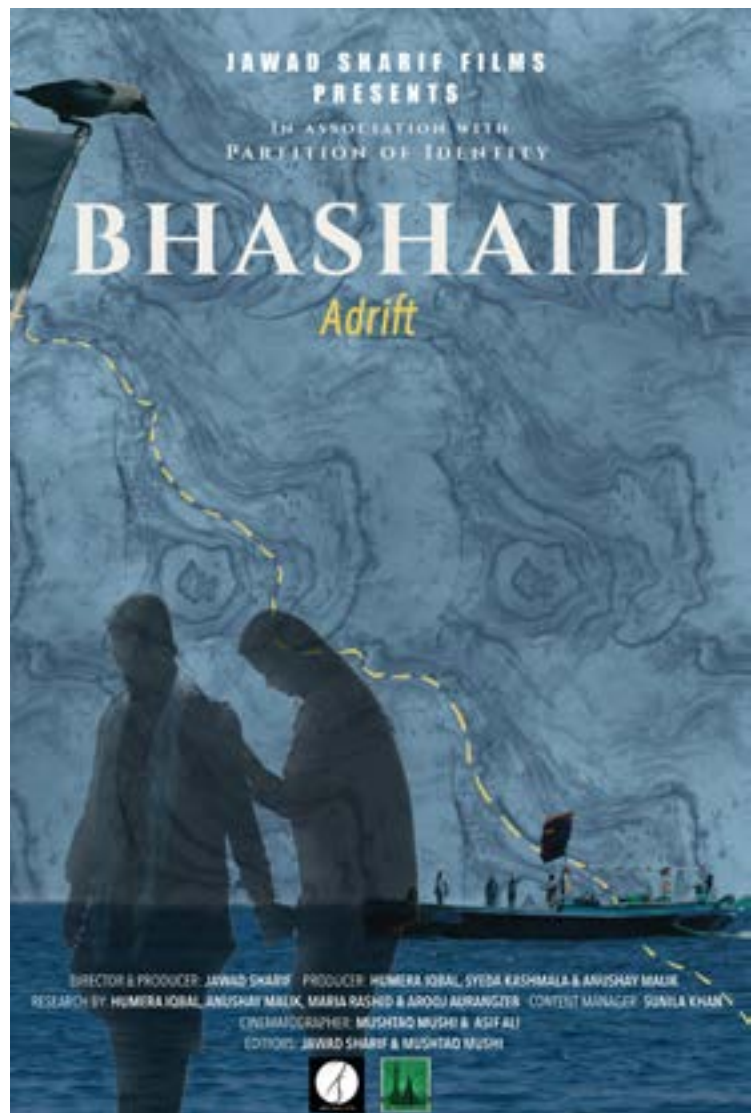
## Bhashaili (Adrift)

27 February, 6pm at LT 9

**Director:** Jawad Sharif

**Producers:** Jawad Sharif, Humera Iqbal, Syeda Kashmala, Anushay Malik

**Recommended rating:** 15 years and above



*Bhashaili tells the story of Pakistani Bengalis living in Karachi, many of whom face issues around citizenship and statelessness despite being in their fourth generation. We follow the everyday stories of young and old Pakistani Bengalis as they chase their dreams, find love, stand up for injustices, and face despair around their lack of recognition in Pakistan.*

### About the filmmakers:

Jawad Sharif is an award-winning filmmaker and National Geographic Explorer based in Pakistan.

Humera Iqbal is a social psychologist, producer and author who leads the Partition of Identity project based in the UK and Pakistan.

Syeda Kashmala is a lawyer, film producer and founder of the Aain foundation based in Pakistan.

Anushay Malik is a historian, producer and author based in Vancouver who co-leads the Partition of Identity project.

## Where should we go after the last border

28 February, 6pm at LT 9



*A photographer who turns into a filmmaker, delves into the ramifications of genocide and displacement of the Rohingya which cast transformative impact upon himself and his Rohingya colleague and fixer.*

**Directed by:** Saiful Huq Omi

**Recommended rating:** 18+

### **About the filmmaker:**

Saiful Huq Omi is a documentary photographer, filmmaker and educator. Political violence and displacement occupy centre stage in his work over the last two decades.

## 2. Short Features in Audio Visual Room 1 (LT8)

Films will be screened in LT8 on loop, on all conference days.

Film	Filmmaker	Description
Sabah's Stateless: Who Are Malaysia's Invisible People? (46 mins)	Yih Wen Chen	They live among the locals. Yet they're not recognised as citizens. There are over a million non-Malaysians living in Sabah today. These include - undocumented, stateless migrants who've made Sabah their new home. Who are these marginalised and unrecognised citizens otherwise known as Malaysia's invisible people? Is there really a future for them?
Sama Dilaut (29 mins)	Christine Ramos	A journey to find extraordinary people leads to a community living on the shores of Sabah, Malaysia and the Philippines. This ethnolinguistic group have dwelled on houseboats for hundreds of years moving across the Sulu Sea. Nomads, sea-gypsies, their life blood is the sea.  Forced to surrender their sea dwelling life due to armed-conflict, environmental degradation, and the rise of commercial fishing, the Sama Dilaut, also known as the Sama-Badjau, dispersed and migrated to the shorelines of nearby islands. They hold tightly onto their traditions and livelihood, but are left displaced and alienated from society.
A Rohingya: The Resistance (28 mins)	Mayyu Ali	This film features the stories of four Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar who produce art and express creativity as a form of resistance against the persecution and dehumanising crimes of their oppressors.
Exodus (23 mins)	Directed by Taimoor Sobhan and co-produced by Fortify Rights and Doha Debates	"Exodus" features three refugees as they visually document life inside refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The film explores how Omal Khair, Dil Kayas, and Azimul Hasson use photography and social media, providing a unique window into the everyday life of Rohingya refugees.
Deepti Gurung - Fighting A New Age War (20 mins)	Upashana Shrestha	This film chronicles the remarkable journey of a mother's unwavering love and courage. Deepti Gurung, a single mother of two daughters, embarks on an extraordinary mission to secure citizenship for her children under her name, challenging discriminatory laws that deny women this basic right.

Film	Filmmaker	Description
<p>The Status of Stateless communities in Kenya (26 mins)</p>	<p>Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC)</p>	<p>Stateless people are denied ID cards and continue to grapple with hardship in accessing critical services and basic rights in Kenya. This film explores the disproportionate weight of the burden of the stateless, who cannot easily access healthcare, education, employment, own property, participate in electoral processes, or even move freely.</p>
<p>The Journey of the Makonde to Citizenship (14 mins)</p>	<p>Executive Producer: Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC). Producer: Thellesi Co. Director: Kenneth Maina</p>	<p>The Makonde arrived in Kenya in the 1940s as labourers but, after independence, were rendered stateless as they were not recognized as Kenyan citizens. This film traces the story of their journey to citizenship, from 1984 when they first began their agitation; to 2016 when they trekked for over 500 kilometres in 4 days in a quest for recognition; to 2017 when they voted for the first time in the country's general elections.</p>
<p>Libertad: la historias de las y los hijos de parejas mixtas (27 mins)</p>	<p>Caribbean Migrants Observatory (OBMICA) Filmmaker: Tatiana Fernández G.</p>	<p>Within the framework of the launch of the Mixed Couples Project Protocol, this documentary collects the stories of multiple people affected by the impossibility of obtaining their documents. Nana tells the story of sisters Ana Luisa, Yolanda and Yesenia; Ana Luisa, her family and the brothers Aneudy and Arisleydi, how they live without papers, how they fight against racial stigmas and how their cases violate the Dominican Constitution, due to their conditions as children of Dominicans.</p>
<p>Citizens of Nowhere: Short Documentary for US Statelessness (11 mins)</p>	<p>What Took You So Long? In association with United Stateless Director: Alicia Sully Producer: Sebastian Lindström</p>	<p>Young, ambitious Millennials in the US discover they are "Citizens of Nowhere", sparking a search for recognition and belonging that unites them and offers hope for the future.</p>
<p>My Children's Future (14 mins)</p>	<p>Equal Rights Trust and the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights</p>	<p>This film follows the stories of women and their families affected by gender discriminatory nationality laws in Madagascar and Nepal. In one way or another, their human rights have been denied; they have been left stateless, unable to access essential rights such as education, healthcare and jobs.</p>



### 3. Shorts in Audio Visual Room 2 (LT10)

Shorts will be screened in LT10 on loop, on all conference days.

We will also screen the Poems, and the Digital Visual Arts Exhibits in this Audio Visual Room.

Film	Filmmaker	Description
Unseen Childhoods -Stateless Stories in Frames (3 mins)	Qasim Ali in collaboration with Imkaan Welfare Organization	A series of photographs taken by Qasim Ali who is a photographer and stateless person, capturing the day-to-day existence of children within his community.
Ineradicable voices: narratives toward rerooting (11 mins)	Zeina Ismail Allouche, INDI program, Concordia University, under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Fast, Dr. Steven High and Dr. Ursula Neuerberg	Life stories of those forcibly separated through international adoption. Individuals share stories acquiring the nationality of adoptive parents, which is conditioned on to denying their nationality of birth. Even with a nationality, the inner feeling of being stateless is profound, impacting identity formation.
Zana's Story (5 mins)	David Kew	The first of a series of intimate and compelling testimonials that throws a critical light both on the procedural process and the terrible human cost of being stateless.
Andhero Ujyalo: Darkness and radiant journey to legal identity (20 mins)	Concept by: Sabin Shrestha  Directed by: Nabaraj Budathoki and Narayan Neupane	Success stories of four people in Nepal who obtained citizenship certificates, leading to an improved quality of life.
Bittersweet (20 mins)	Dolar Vasani	Expulsion @50 is a podcast series commemorating the 50-year anniversary of the expulsion of Ugandan Asians. 'Bittersweet' highlights the plight of Urmila and Marriette whose families became stateless and dispersed across the globe.
I AM MIYA - Reclaiming Identity through Protest poetry (5 mins)	Abdul Kalam Azad	'Miya' poetry is a reclaiming of one's Muslim identity by the Bengal-origin Muslims of Assam. It is protest poetry that rebels against oppression and subjugation. That asserts and empowers the self.

Film	Filmmaker	Description
Assam's Released Stateless Detainees During COVID-19 Pandemic (10 mins)	Right to Nationality and Citizenship, India Concept and direction: Ravi Hemadri	Based on interviews with released detainees in Assam, this short offers a glimpse into the broken lives of some of the frontline victims of the state's citizenship determination regime.
Saya Juga Anak Malaysia (9 mins)	Family Frontiers	Featuring Aini, a Malaysian mother navigating Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws while her daughter is yet to be recognised as a citizen.
Citizenship in South Africa: Caroline's Story (5 mins)	Scalabrini Centre Cape Town Camera/ Edit: Pascale Neuschäfer	In 2013, the South African Legislature saw fit to amend the Citizenship Act to allow children born in South Africa to apply for and obtain citizenship at the age of 18. In this documentary, we hear from Caroline about her journey to get South African citizenship.
Allan   Chasing an identity from Cape Town to Nairobi (5 mins)	Scalabrini Centre Cape Town	Meet Allan, who undertakes a perilous journey to prove his identity, resulting in tragedy.
Statelessness in South Africa (3 mins)	Scalabrini Centre Cape Town Music: Alexandre Navarro Video: L Manicom	Meet Elizabeth; a stateless girl living in South Africa. There are an estimated 10 000 stateless people in South Africa. South Africa is not a signatory to either of the two main conventions that protect stateless people.
Belonging Parts One, Two and Three (8, 7 & 8 mins)	Lawyers for Human Rights Photographed and edited by Daréll Lourens	<p>BELONGING Part One tells the story of Frederik, a stateless man in South Africa.</p> <p>Part Two tells the story of Daniellas and her struggle for citizenship.</p> <p>Part Three follows Nosipho and Ayanda and their struggle for citizenship.</p>
"Unblock My ID, Unlock My Life" Stories Andries, Thulisiwe, Solly & David (5 mins each)	Lawyers for Human Rights	<p>This documentary series is part of a campaign to hold the Department accountable for their unjust practice towards blocking IDs, and to shed light on real-life stories of people whose lives have been devastated and put on hold due to blocked IDs.</p> <p>Episode 1 tells the story of Andries, Episode 2 of Thulisiwe' Episode 3 of Solly and Episode 4 of David.</p>

Film	Filmmaker	Description
Stories of the invisible - RomaNet (9 mins)	Phiren Amenca	In November 2020, the project “Learn My Name” was launched to clarify the extent of exclusion of Roma and Egyptians without documentation.
Malaysian Mothers Speak Up for Equal Citizenship (8 mins)	Family Frontiers	This campaign video as part of the Malaysian Campaign for Equal Citizenship highlights first-person accounts of mothers whose children were born overseas and who are still facing tremendous hurdles in their applications for citizenship.
Our Mother’s Country: Our Country (7 mins)	Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights Producer Director: Christine Chamoun Editor: Tracy G Williams	25 countries deny women the right to transfer their nationality to their children. This short describes what it means to be stateless in Jordan and Kuwait, and illustrates the benefits enjoyed by children when laws are changed, as in Morocco.
The Impact of Reform: Stories from Indonesia and Kenya (7 mins)	Equal Rights Trust and the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights	In the last decade over 10 countries have eliminated gender discrimination from their nationality laws. This film highlights the benefits of reform by looking at two - Indonesia and Kenya. It features stories from those affected as well as from experts who were instrumental to reform.
باسمي ومش إلي    In my name... but not mine (7 mins)	Lebanese Women’s Right to Nationality and Full Citizenship	This short delves into the dimensions of identity, citizenship, and the controversial relationship with cultural norms that violate women’s rights based on gender in laws. It ends with a rebellion against patriarchal norms, flipping the power dynamics.
Ending Gender Discrimination in Nationality Laws - Sapana’s Story (4 mins)	Equal Rights Trust and the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights	Nepal’s gender discriminatory nationality law has prevented Sapana from passing on her nationality to her two daughters, consequently, they have been left stateless. In this testimonial, Sapana describes their existence as bleak, expressing her deep concern for their future.
Stateless Bhutanese Refugees in Denmark: Lok Maya’s Story (8 mins)	Association of Bhutanese Communities in Denmark (ABCD) and the European Network on Statelessness (ENS)	This film follows Lok Maya, a Bhutanese refugee who remains stateless more than 12 years after being permanently resettled in Denmark.

Film	Filmmaker	Description
In our own words: The ENS Community Group (8 mins)	European Network on Statelessness	The ENS Community Group is open to all people with experience of living without a nationality and representatives of communities impacted by statelessness. Hear from members about the role of activism in ending statelessness and what the ENS community group means to them.
Ahmed - "I certainly don't know" (6 mins)	European Network on Statelessness  Edited by Ingrid Guyon  Camera & Direction by Alejandro Molano Vásquez	Ahmed is one of the stateless changemakers working with ENS to improve protection for stateless refugees.
Lynn - Life as a stateless refugee (6 mins)	European Network on Statelessness  Film by Erasmus Talbot	Lynn Khatib is one of the stateless changemakers working with ENS to improve protection for stateless refugees.
BORN STATELESS (6 mins)	European Network on Statelessness	Families and lawyers share the impacts of childhood statelessness in Europe.



Film	Filmmaker	Description
Call me by my name - what it means to be stateless (4 mins)	European Network on Statelessness and British Rohingya Community	This poem was created by a group of Rohingya youth in Bradford, in partnership with the British Rohingya Association & the European Network on Statelessness.
Citizens in a refugee camp (19 mins)	Written and directed by Khalid Hussain, with support from the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion	<p>This film focuses on the living conditions of Bangladesh's Urdu speaking community. Though they are entitled to Bangladeshi citizenship, they are forced to live in refugee camps.</p> <p>The film reveals the existence of secret government papers, which show that 34,000 acres of land was set aside for acquisition by the community in 1947. Land that they have never received.</p>
The Others (5 mins)	Created by Adan Shaikh from the Partition of Identity Project	An animated social commentary that depicts the impact of having one's identity taken away. The animation explores issues of 'othering', belonging and statelessness faced by members of the Pakistani Bengali community living in Karachi, Pakistan including those from Machar Colony.
'Aamai Bhashali Re' (5 mins)	Directed by Abdullah Khan and Nabiha Rehan from the Partition of Identity Project	A rendition of the popular poem by Bengali writer Jasimuddin. 'Aamai Bhashali Re' captures the importance of the rivers and seas to sailors and fishermen across the subcontinent, many of whom belong to the Pakistani Bengali community, and many of whom face issues of Statelessness. The song is performed in Bangla by musician Abdul Haleem, with English subtitles below.

# Part IV

# PERFORMANCES





## 1. Hands Percussion

HANDS PERCUSSION (HANDS), a renowned Malaysian percussion ensemble, founded and directed by Bernard Goh, has been creating a veritable bang in the performing arts scene in Kuala Lumpur since 1997 with its groundbreaking and innovative performances. The ensemble's performances have been highly regarded and admired as they endeavour to preserve their cultural heritage while introducing new dimensions to theatrical drumming by venturing into contemporary percussion music and exploring music and instruments from different cultures.

Hands Percussion, in collaboration with acclaimed Malaysian vocal artist Zamzuriah, have created a bespoke performance for the 2024 World Conference on Statelessness, on the themes of identity and belonging.





## 2. Patricia Low

Patricia Low is from Malaysia and an activist impacted by Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship laws. She uses poetry as a tool for advocacy, and has written and performed several poems that speak of identity, belonging, and the lived realities of women and children impacted by gender-discriminatory laws. She has also written short stories and plays, and devised theatre and community arts projects. Her performance at the 2024 World Conference on Statelessness is a collaboration with interdisciplinary artist Fairuz Sulaiman, whose practice encompasses digital and analogue visual formats, and blends together methods such as puppetry, animation, and live video mixing.



### 3. Stories by the Statelessness Action Group

Since January 2023, a small group of activists, advocates and changemakers with lived experience of statelessness, have been working with playwright Ruwanthie de Chickera to understand how to better tell their stories and the stories of statelessness.

Stateless stories are difficult to tell because they are often painful, deeply personal, and generally unending. They sometimes have dangerous repercussions so even people who have lived these stories sometimes prefer to bury them. Stateless stories are also often sensationalised, simplified or generalised, stripped of nuance and integrity and instrumentalised, performed or churned out on request. When told with integrity, stateless stories take us to the core of what it means to be human, for within them, we encounter the best and the worst of human nature.

Over the months, four members of the Statelessness Action Group – Ali Johar, Neha Gurung, Shahd Qannam and Areej Al Shammiry - returned again and again to pen and paper, trying to find new ways to tell old stories, simple ways to tell complex stories and interesting ways to tell sad stories. At the 2024 World Conference on Statelessness, we are very proud to feature and perform their writings.

#### **The stories:**

1. *My warrior mother and the Prime Minister, written by Neha Gurung and Ruwanthie de Chickera.*
2. *From Rohingya to Palestine: the patterns of our genocides, written by Ali Johar and Amal de Chickera.*
3. *Error 404: stateless chronicles of a laptop loss, written by Shahd Qannam.*
4. *Grief unanswered, written by Areej Al Shammiry and Shahd Qannam.*

All stories were edited and crafted for performance by Ruwanthie de Chickera, with additional editorial input by Amal de Chickera.

#### **The writers:**

**Areej Al Shammiry** is an academic and activist. She is a former stateless Bidoon, living in Canada. Areej is a Vanier Doctoral Fellow in Sociology, York University, Toronto, and serves on the Interim Core Group of the Global Movement Against Statelessness.

**Neha Gurung** is a human rights lawyer and advocate for equal citizenship rights. She was formerly stateless as a result of gender discrimination in Nepal's nationality laws. She serves as a Co-Lead of the Global Movement Against Statelessness and is a Co-Founder of the Citizenship Affected People's Network Nepal.

**Ali Johar** is a Rohingya human rights defender and community leader. He is a member of the Interim Core Group of the Global Movement Against Statelessness and a Fellow at Refugees International.

**Shahd Qannam** is a Palestinian researcher and PhD Candidate in Law at City University of London. She is also a Programme Officer at the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion. Additionally, Shahd serves as a legal consultant on projects concerning the right to nationality in the context of Palestinian statelessness.

### **The performers:**

**Tee Le Qian (Jane)** has been following her passion for acting since high school and is now a student at Taylors University & The Actors Studio, enhancing her skills as a versatile performer.

**Pang Hau Chuen (Jerry)** is a student at Taylors University and The Actors Studio, and is a performer and film director. He most recently performed at the Asian Youth Theatre Festival in the Philippines in 2023.

**Murthaaz Barry** is a passionate actor who most recently performed the Gaza Monologues as part of the Freedom for Palestine movement in Sri Lanka. He helps lead the Youth Ensemble of Stages Theatre Group in Sri Lanka.

**Aunger Aung**, a refugee herself, is the Co Founder of Project R.ED, a nonprofit organisation that aims to empower refugee children by providing them with additional support in academics and character development.

### **The director and dramaturg:**

Ruwanthie de Chickera is a playwright, screenwriter and theatre director. Ruwanthie wrote the award-winning film “Machan” (2008) and is the co-founder and artistic director of Stages Theatre Group in Sri Lanka. Ruwanthie co-curated the CANCELLED Arts Programme at the 2019 Global Conference on Statelessness in the Hague.

## 4. Danial Bogers

Born in 1998, Danial Bogers is a rapper who still lives in the glory days of hip hop and R&B that he was introduced to by his brother, while growing up. Having debuted his music publicly in the RapStar Era contest in 2020 (held by Malaysian radio station Era FM) at the brink of the pandemic, he has since progressed to release a number of tracks in collaboration with legendary Malaysian hip hop composer DJ Fuzz, Waris, and was featured in the OST for the Malaysian film Remp-It 2 alongside Black Hanifah and Cat Farish. A Malaysian/Dutch rapper residing in Malaysia, Danial pursues his projects with old school inspirations and new school flavours, drawing inspiration from his surroundings and homeland. Danial employs his music as a medium to articulate the impact of Malaysia's gender-discriminatory citizenship law on his life.





## 5. Ruth Choir

The Ruth Education Centre in Kuala Lumpur was set up in July 2011 for the education of refugee youth who do not have legal rights of employment and education in Malaysia. The Centre is a charitable body supported by churches, organisations and friends to meet this need and has 80 full-time residential students aged 13 to 18. It also serves as a teacher-training centre for refugee teachers.

Besides the typical subjects offered in high school, music and choir are part of the Centre's curriculum. The popular Ruth Choir was established in 2016, and has since performed in churches, shopping malls and other public spaces, and at local and international events.



## 6. Malayanmarland

Malayanmarland is a dance performance featuring Chin refugee students, in collaboration with AAP founder and Malaysian choreographer, Lau Beh Chin. This performance delves into the theme of “homeland,” exploring the complex and often poignant concept of what constitutes a homeland for displaced individuals.

Established in 2018, the Anjez Art Project (AAP) comprises the Art for Refugee and Refugee Artisan Programmes. In collaboration with MyDance Alliance, Art for Refugee educates Burmese refugee students on different types of arts.

The Chin Student Organization was formed in 2005, when Burmese university students found Chin children wandering the streets of Kuala Lumpur. When no one else would help, the students took it upon themselves to teach the kids and now run schools in Puchong and Cheras (2007), for over 250 enthusiastic pupils.





## 7. Looms

CEAM, short for K'Cho Ethnic Association Malaysia, is a community-based organisation dedicated to supporting K'Cho individuals from Myanmar who are currently living in Malaysia.

The K'Cho, a subgroup of the Chin tribes, are celebrated for their unique culture, including the traditional facial tattoos of women, and rich history. Approximately 3,000 to 5,000 K'Cho have fled deadly persecution in Myanmar, but only a few have managed to register with UNHCR. CEAM provides assistance and advocates for the K'Cho.



## 8. Dialogue

A musical dialogue of sound and rhythms between the North Indian tabla, Malay gendang, and Western guitar that crosses language barriers, bridges cultural divides and rises above geopolitical borders.

### **Prakash Kandasamy**

Prakash started learning the tabla at age 16 from Shri Suresh Ramachandra at the Temple of Fine Arts (TFA) Kuala Lumpur. In 1992, he studied under the late tabla maestro Ustad Alla Rakha in Pune, India. In Malaysia, his musical career began with the TFA orchestra and local sitar players including Samuel J. Dass. He has collaborated with pop artist Reshmonu and performed in fusion ensembles such as Swarasia and Prana.

Prakash is the recipient of the national awards “Tokoh Seni Negeri Pulau Penang” (2003), and “Anugerah Seni Negara” (2006). Other notable awards include the “Datin Seri Endon Award for Performing Arts Excellence” (2009). He has taught tabla at TFA KL for over 20 years and for over 10 years was a part-time lecturer at the National Academy of Art, Culture and Heritage of Malaysia (ASWARA).



### **Majd Hass**

Majd is from Syria and has been living in Malaysia for the past 8 years. He teaches and performs the guitar and drums and is also a composer. His music compositions can be found across multiple platforms including Shazam, Anghami, Spotify, Instagram, and Facebook.

### **Matdin Hussin**

Mat Din is a multi-instrumentalist/composer/music director/arranger and well-known percussionist from Pasir Mas, Kelantan. His study of Kelantanese traditional musical instruments began at aged 8 and he has mastered the range of musical genres .

He received his formal music education from ASWARA and is a member of Geng Wak Long, a local traditional music group. Mat Din has performed internationally at festivals and other events including in China, Japan, Brunei, Hong Kong, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, Spain, Thailand and Vietnam.





## 9. Parastoo Dance Group

Parastoo Dance Group is based in Kuala Lumpur. It was founded by Masooma Sepas and is choreographed by team member Mr Javad. The aim of this team is to bring joy and happiness, as well as raise awareness about how dance can be a part of life. Currently, they have seven members, aged 15-25. Parastoo Dance Group aims to showcase the beauty of Afghanistan's traditional dance and keep the tradition alive. All the dancers love dancing, and they perform and practise part-time.



## 10. Malaysian Karen Association

The Malaysia Karen Organisation was set up in 2005 in Kuala Lumpur, with its roots from the Malaysia Karen Youth Organisation. The traditional Karen don dance originated with the Pwo Karen, who developed this series of dances as a way to reinforce community values and unity. Don dance strips away the barriers of dialect, religious belief and differences among the various Karen communities and instead constructs a sense of togetherness that ultimately envisions a unified Karen nation. Musicians playing traditional Karen instruments typically accompany the don dancers.





**Part V**  
**WORKSHOPS**

# The Think of Others Workshops

The Think of Others programme, will feature a series of workshops co-designed and facilitated by artists and activists, (with and without lived experience of statelessness/ discriminatory nationality laws), focusing on various aspects of arts advocacy. These workshops offer participants insights and hands-on experiences aimed at fostering creative expression, amplifying voices and driving meaningful change through the arts. Below is a list of the workshops.

**All arts workshops will take place at the X space D4.17 on Level 4.**

## - **THINK OF OTHERS WORKSHOP 1**

**Documenting human tragedies & atrocities: notes & tips for Human Rights Defenders**

27 February, 11.45am to 1.15pm

Saiful Huq Omi  
Mohamed Jabaly

## - **THINK OF OTHERS WORKSHOP 2**

**MONEY TREE: The Currency of Migration**  
*Creating a collaborative advocacy artwork*

27 February, 2.30pm to 4pm

Mandlenkosi Mavengere

## - **THINK OF OTHERS WORKSHOP 3**

**Postcards from a Dream: A Comic Workshop on Belonging**

28 February, 11.45am to 1.15pm

Dr Humera Iqbal  
Kremena Dimitrova  
Diwakar Chetri  
Zahra Marwan

## - **THINK OF OTHERS WORKSHOP 4**

**Drop into this workshop if you are looking for something different : OR how to build a good story**

28 February, 2.30pm to 4pm

Ruwanthie de Chickera & the Statelessness Action Group



**- THINK OF OTHERS WORKSHOP 5**

**Power in Personal Stories: The Art of Audio-Visual Advocacy**

29 February, 9am to 10.45am

Esther Teo  
Gaithiri Siva  
Alicia Dixon  
Melinda Anne Sharlini  
Patricia Low

**- THINK OF OTHERS WORKSHOP 6**

**I AM ... A Poetry Workshop on Reimagining the Self**

29 February, 11.15am to 12.45pm

Abdul Kalam Azad  
Mayyu Ali  
Jo Kukathas

**- THINK OF OTHERS WORKSHOP 7**

**Art as Advocacy for Change: Winning Battles, Losing Wars? An honest look**

29 February, 2pm to 3.30pm

Jo Kukathas  
Ruwanthie de Chickera  
Hasan Al-Akraa  
Farzana Yakta  
Greg Constantine

# Credits and Acknowledgements

## The Think of Others Team

1. Sushila Kukathas - Arts Producer & Co-Curator
2. Jo Kukathas - Advisor & Co-Curator
3. Hasan Al-Akraa - Arts programme advisor
4. Chan Hui Min - Production assistant
5. Armanzaki bin Amirolzakri - Stage manager
6. Aisha Musse Mohamud - Arts programme team
7. Sehan Sanjana Ekanayake - Arts programme team
8. May Thay Kyin - Arts programme team
9. Alicia Dixon – Consultant
10. Sarah Czarina Mashanis – Consultant
11. Ruwanthie de Chickera - Storytelling Consultant
12. Humera Iqbal - Catalogue Editor
13. Adan Shaikh - Catalogue Designer
14. Melinda Anne Sharlini – Co-lead on behalf of Conference team
15. Amal de Chickera – Co-lead on behalf of Conference team

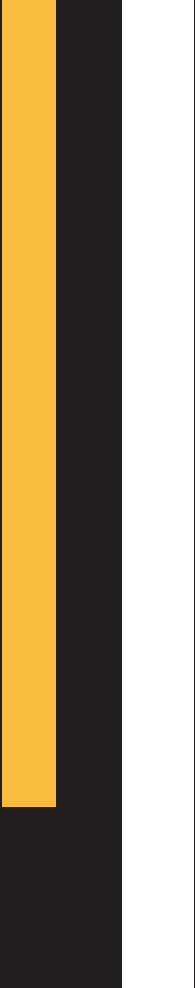
## Acknowledgements

**The Think of Others** team are grateful to several artists, colleagues and friends for their invaluable guidance and support. In particular, we would like to thank:

1. Bernard Goh - Artistic Director, HANDS Percussion
2. Chuah Chong Yong & HUAK HUAK Sdn Bhd - Exhibition designers
3. David Thang Kwee - Alliance of Chin Refugees
4. Eagle - Team Manager, HANDS Percussion
5. Farzana Yakta - Parastoo Theatre
6. Iris Lee & Applied Imaging - Printers
7. Jaw Tu Hkawng Hpaude - Chin Community
8. Laura Cahier - Consultant, OHCHR
9. Mahi Ramakrishnan - Beyond Borders
10. Molynin Khleang - Women Peacemakers Cambodia
11. Pastor Michael - Ruth Education Centre & Ruth Choir
12. Saleh Sepas - Parastoo Theatre
13. Saw Kiki - Malaysia Karen Organisation
14. Sayed Yaqoob Rzawi - Parastoo Theatre
15. Sya Hong Om - Translator, K'Cho Ethnic Association Malaysia
16. Vanessa Chong & Lay Sheng Yap - Fortify Rights

It would have been impossible to pull this off without the accommodation, support and flexibility shown by Dr Tamara Duraisingam, Dr. Harmahinder Singh, Suzanna Abdul Hadi, Muhd Afiq Syazwan and their wonderful colleagues at Taylor's University, who went out of their way to find solutions for myriad challenges - showing (if ever it was in doubt) that creativity isn't the exclusive domain of artists! We are deeply grateful to them all!

Finally, we wish to thank all the artists who entrusted us with their deeply moving, powerful and thought-provoking work. We hope we have done justice to it, in how we have integrated and presented it within the programme and venue of the 2024 World Conference on Statelessness.



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