

Citizenship: A Barrier to Rights and Inclusion?

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This panel critically examines the extent to which citizenship, as it is currently constructed, offers an effective remedy to statelessness and exclusion. Commitment 4 of the Our Common Agenda Report (United Nations, 2021), to ‘abide by international law and ensure justice’, includes a specific focus on ‘legal identity for all, (an) end to statelessness and protection of internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants’. Recent interdisciplinary scholarship has highlighted the potential limitations of allocating citizenship status as a measure to alleviate the vulnerabilities and harms experienced by stateless people and those excluded through irregular status. This literature suggests that, far from being anomalies, such exclusions are an enduring feature of citizenship regimes globally. This panel examines the challenges presented by citizenship as a means through which to pursue the aims of Commitment 4, and explores alternative ways of theorising – and practising – remedies against exclusion from legal status.

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