PROGRAMME

18:00 Welcome. Presentations and work focus of Apatride Network, Save My Identity, CoalitionVe, and the Rohingya Project.

18:20 Video screenings.
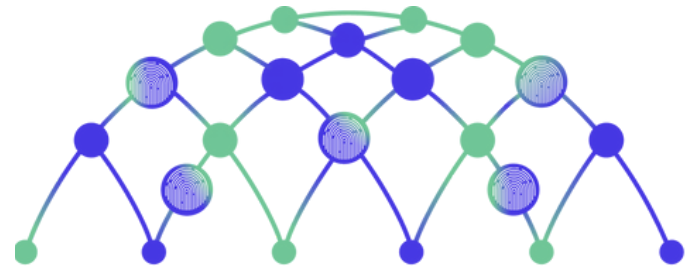
18:30 Framing the problem

18:45 1st Panel discussion live and **2nd Panel discussion online.** Blockchain-based digital ID's showcases, potential solutions, risks, consensus on steps moving forward.

20:15 Discussion's outcome
Prof. Dr. Christine Kaufmann, UZH
Q&A **Dr. Philippe Page**, Human Colossus

20:25 Launch
Blockchain for Human Rights and Q&A. Online partnership registration.

20:35 Follow-up
Concluding remarks.

blockchain for human rights

LAUNCH & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

🗓️⏰ **18:00**
Friday, 12 April
Viadukt Bogen D
Viaduktstr. 93
8005 Zürich
Apero

#blockchain4humanrights #blockchain
#bchain4HR #proofofidentity #hhrr
#digitalID #identification #humanrights
#digitalidentity #legalidentity

BOOK YOUR SEAT

Limited capacity

Save My Identity · Apatride Network · [R] PROJECT A Rohingya Initiative · COALITIONVE · Urban think tank_next

University of Zurich · Latin American Center Zurich · HASLER STIFTUNG österreichisches kulturforum brn · IMPACT HUB Zürich · ETHZurich

ABOUT THE EVENT

This event is dedicated to tackling the challenges that vulnerable populations, including refugees, asylum seekers, stateless individuals, and other forcibly displaced persons, face in the attempt to accessing basic human rights services, due to lack of proper identification.

What sets this event apart is that it's organized with the affected communities, providing insightful perspectives into the challenges and opportunities at the grassroots level. Experts in Human Rights, Blockchain, and digital ID will convene to share successful cases and brainstorm solutions as well as technology risks.

THE PROBLEM

In most cases, for anyone to enjoy access to fundamental human rights requires proof of identity. Vulnerable populations face serious challenges in obtaining status-quo identification and face systemic discrimination.

A billion people in the world lack legal identity and are purposely deprived of proper identification, in some cases, by malicious state-actors. These populations could stand to benefit the most from the advancements of an inclusive blockchain-based identification.

ABOUT BCHAIN4HR

The Blockchain for Human Rights (bchain4hr) promotes a global partnership of different actors towards the adoption of inclusive digital ID for all, by using Blockchain-based technology to overcome unfair barriers and provide better access to fundamental human rights.

The initiative raises awareness on the lack of identification, statelessness, and ubiquitous and frequent misuse of state-actor monopoly in identification. It also focuses on advocacy work, aiming to connect and influence Blockchain actors, state actors, regional and international organisations, NGOs, the academia, and the civil society.

THE SOLUTION

There is an urgent need for a more equitable and decentralised form of digital ID as an alternative complement to the traditional forms of identification based on state-actor absolute monopoly.

WORKSHOP &

🗓 18:45
PANEL DISCUSSION I LIVE

1. **Prof. Dr. Manfred Nowak, Secretary General, Global Campus on Human Rights in Venice, Italy**
2. **Lic. iur. Lea Hungerbühler, LL.M., Founder and President Asylex**
3. **Prof. Dr. Tim Weingärtner, HSLU Lucerne School of Computer Science and Information Technology,**
4. **Dr. Emrys Schoemaker, Decentralized digital ID, Caribou Digital, UNDP consultant**
5. **Alexandre Maaza, Sustainability Lead, Cardano Foundation**
6. **Trevor Butterworth, cofounder and VP of governance, INDICIO.**
7. **Prof. Dr. Christine Kaufmann, UZH, Conclusions & thoughts**

1st. Panel Discussion, Moderates:
Maria Gabriela Sarmiento, Nancy Arellano, Aleksejs Ivashuk

🗓 19:30
PANEL DISCUSSION II ONLINE

1. **Yodahe Zemichael, Executive Director, National Digital ID Ethiopia**
2. **MD Noor, cofounder in charge of The Rohingya Project**
3. **Mercedes Rodríguez, founder, Ethereum Venezuela**
4. **Marianne Díaz Hernández, in charge of the Digital ID project, AccesNow**
5. **Dr. José María Arraiza, human rights and digital ID specialist**
6. **Dr. Philippe Page, Human Colossus, Chair of the Board of Trustees, conclusions and reflections**

2nd. Panel Discussion, Moderates:
Ms. Mercedes Rodríguez, **Ethereum Venezuela**

Prof. Dr. Manfred Nowak, SG, Global Campus on Human Rights. He is Professor of Human Rights (HHRR) and Director of the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied HHRR at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. He served in various expert functions, such as UN expert on enforced disappearances, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, judge at the HHRR Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Vice Chairperson of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. He was appointed Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. In addition to his function as Professor of Public and International Law at Vienna University, Prof. Nowak also served as Director of the Netherlands Institute of HHRR at Utrecht University and of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of HHRR at Vienna University as well as Visiting Professor at the University of Lund, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and at Stanford University in Palo Alto. He is author of more than 600 publications.

Lic. iur. Lea Hungerbühler, LL.M., President, Asylex Lea's main area of expertise is Swiss and EU financial regulation, with a special focus on cross-border business and FinTech. She worked for several years for major Swiss and international law firms in the banking department. Before joining Leximpact, she earned her LL.M. degree from Harvard Law School. Besides her work as an attorney-at-law, Lea has a mandate as vice-president of the criminal court in Basel-Landschaft. Moreover, Lea worked for the State Secretariat for International Financial Matters. In 2017, Lea founded the Swiss charity AsyLex which provides free legal aid to refugees.

Prof. Dr. Tim Weingärtner is a lecturer at the School of Information Technology at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. In teaching and research, he focuses on Blockchain technology and Smart Contracts. As a representative in the Smart-up Program, he supports the promotion of young start-ups. As a member of the project team, he played a major role in setting up the Central Switzerland Innovation Park in Rotkreuz, which deals with the Digital Transformation in the construction industry. Before joining the university, Tim worked in the Swiss financial industry for more than 15 years. He led several major IT projects in credit management and credit risk management. During this time, he also worked as a product manager for the leading provider of core banking solutions in Switzerland. Tim studied computer science and received his doctorate in medical robotics from the University of Karlsruhe, Germany.

Dr. Emrys Schoemaker, digital id specialist, consultant UNDP, Caribou Digital is a researcher and strategist interested in the interaction between digital technologies and social, political and economic change. His research and advisory work focuses on technologies in emerging markets, including mobile, internet and identification systems. He is a fellow at the LSE, where he gained his PhD examining the relationship between social media and identity. This involved a year of ethnographic research on the interaction of religious identity and FB use in Pakistan. Emrys has also worked in strategic communications and development advising governments, donors, multilateral organisations such as the WB and UN as well as national and international NGOs. He also co-founded iMedia Associates, a media and communications company and Ekatay, a software company providing services to the international development sector. He has a background in community development, mediation, conflict resolution, and communications.

Alexandre Maaza runs two portfolios at the Cardano Foundation: 1. Blockchain (BC) 4 sustainability, aka BC 4 Good: developing partnerships that apply Cardano's BC technology to use cases that align with sustainability frameworks such as the UN SDGs; and 2. Sustainability of BC: shaping initiatives related to Cardano's governance and environmental impact, including Cardano's decentralized innovation fund - Project Catalyst. He has a background in education, research and innovation cooperation and holds a master in International Affairs specialising in Trade & International Finance, as well as a Bachelor in Economics and Finance, and Social Development.

Trevor Butterworth, founder and VP Communications & Governance at INDICIO, is chair of the Steering Committee (SC) for the Cardea Project at Linux Foundation Public Health (LFPH), an open source project for sharing verifiable digital health credentials in a privacy preserving way. He is member of the SC for the Covid Credentials Initiative, also at LFPH, and he is on the Stewards Governance Committee of the Velocity Network. Trevor has written much of the Indicio content including the company's white papers, reports, decks, web content, and blogs. Under Trevor's guidance, Indicio launched the company's flagship product Proven™ which provides the complete suite of software, network infrastructure, and decentralized identity components needed to authenticate and exchange high-value information and develop trusted, secure relationships.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1ST PANEL DISCUSSION

Prof. Dr. Christine Kaufmann was appointed as an assistant professor at the University of Zurich on October 1, 2002. On September 1, 2003, she was appointed as a full professor for constitutional, administrative, and international law at the University of Zurich. Prior to this, she worked at the Swiss National Bank from 1991-2000, where she eventually headed the Human Resources department as a director. Before her appointment at the University of Zurich, she spent time as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School and held a position as Director of Legal Research at the World Trade Institute (WTI) of the University of Bern. In 2009, she initiated the establishment of the Centre of Competence for Human Rights at the University of Zurich and has since led it as the chair of the steering committee. Since 2019, Christine Kaufmann has been the chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct.

2nd PANEL DISCUSSION (Moderated by Ms. Mercedes Rodriguez)

Mr. Mohammad Noor has established several Rohingya institutions, among which the Rohingya Project, and trained members of the Rohingya community worldwide. His contributed to the digitization and Unicode of First Rohingya Alphabet, served as the chairman of Rohingya Football Club, authored the " Born to Struggle: The Child of Rohingya Refugees and His Inspiring Journey" book and works on several assignments with the UNHCR, the Red Cross, IOM, International Network of Human Rights. Noor is the Co-Founder of Rohingya Vision (RVISION), the world's first Rohingya Satellite television channel. rohingyaproject.com

Malaysia

Mr. Yodahe Zemichael Executive Director, National ID Program Ethiopia has more than ten years' experience as an automation engineer and as Technical Advisor in different roles with government. He has worked in the Ministry of Science and Technology, and presently at the Office of the Prime Minister. In his current capacity, he leads the effort in revamping the Ethiopian National ID Program under the Office of the Prime Minister. Yodahe holds a Masters degree in Mechatronics.

Ethiopia

Ms. Marianne Díaz Hernández is the #WhyID Campaigner at Access Now. Marianne is a Venezuelan lawyer, digital rights activist, and fiction writer, currently based in Santiago, Chile. Her work focuses mainly on issues regarding online freedom of speech, privacy, web filtering, internet infrastructure and digital security. She founded the digital rights NGO Acceso Libre, a volunteer-based organization that documents threats to human rights in the online environment in Venezuela. Before joining Access Now, Marianne worked as a public policy analyst for the Latin American NGO Derechos Digitales. She's volunteered for Global Voices, particularly for the Advox project. She has published several fiction books, and co-founded the small press Casajena Editoras. She was recognized with the "Human Rights Hero" award, granted by Access Now, for her research and leading advocacy efforts against invasive measures taken by the government of Venezuela. In 2022, she was selected as one of the Global Leaders of Digital Human Rights by the Ouano Foundation.

Chile

2nd PANEL DISCUSSION

Venezuela

Ms. Mercedes Rodriguez Simón, founder and co-lead of ETHEREUM VENEZUELA, has a professional background in operations and a strong interest in the intersection of technology and social change. With experience as an Operations Manager at El Dorado. She has volunteered with organizations such as SingularityU Caracas Chapter, Un Mundo Sin Mordaza (ONG), and Voluntad Popular Activistas, where she has taken on various leadership roles, developed and implemented strategies, organized events, and built meaningful relationships within communities.

Spain

Dr. José-María Arraiza has spent two decades working in peace–building and protection. He participated in the UN administration of Kosovo (99-2000), the East Timor elections organization (2001), the OSCE Mission in Kosovo human rights monitoring (02–2008) and the diplomatic work of the Hague-based OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (OSCE HCNM) in Central, Eastern & Southeastern Europe (2010–2012). He led the Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) programme of the Norwegian Refugee Council in Myanmar, which facilitated access to civil documents through mobile teams in Southeast Myanmar (half a million+ ID cards were distributed to vulnerable persons). He holds a European Masters' Degree on HHRR and Democratisation, an L.L.M. on Peace Support Operations and a PhD in public law. Latest book with S. Leckie is "Before a Democracy Died. Housing, Land and Property Rights in Myanmar".

CONCLUSIONS OF THE 2nd. PANEL DISCUSSION

Philippe Page is a Swiss theoretical physicist who transitioned from the world of science to finance. Witness of the emergence of the WWW as a scientist, he accumulated valuable experience in digital transformation from multiple dimensions from technology to enterprise and societal impacts. These transformative experiences led Philippe to advocate for a human-centered approach to drive technology innovation. As co-founder of Human Colossus Foundation, he promotes the responsible and ethical use of data. His commitment is shown in his active involvement in three EU Next-Generation Internet projects: Digital Immunisation Passports, Dynamic Data Sharing, & Decentralised Key Management for Self Sovereign Identity (SSI). Philippe piloted SSI technologies in the humanitarian sector with Sovrin Foundation. He lectures on the societal impact of digital transformation as part of the University of Geneva INFOSEC program. He is the CEO of MeDDEa Solutions, a cutting-edge startup implementing state-of-the-art digital trust infrastructures.

THE PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Aleksejs Ivashuk is the Founder of Apatride Network, a leading stateless-led coalition in the EU. He is also on UNHCR's advisory board of organisations led by the forcibly displaced persons. Aleksejs holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Simon Fraser University in Canada. He has published on statelessness with Oxford's Forced Migration Review and with the Swiss Refugee Council. Apatride Network's website: apatride.eu

Dr. iur. Maria Gabriela Sarmiento, LL.M. is co-Founder and Vice president of Save My Identity (SMID), a Swiss non for profit association registered in Zürich, led by female migrants and refugees residing in Latin America and Europe. SMID vindicates the human rights to a legal identity and a proof of identity. Gabriela holds a Ph.D in Law (stolen public asset recovery), a master's degree in International Trade Law and a bachelor's degree in Law. She has written books; articles and chapters in international peer-reviewed journals. Linktr: SaveMyIdentity_Cap.Suiza

Mrs. Nancy Arellano is the Founder and President of Veneactiva, an NGO in Peru led by professional migrant women. She is the vice-president of the CoalitionVe. She holds a Master in Government and Public Management in Latin America and is a specialist in International Finance with a Diploma in International Politics and a Degree in Liberal Studies. Nancy also holds diplomas in International Migration and Refugee Law. Additionally, she is certified as a PM4R Expert in Project Management by the IDB. She is a project manager in integration in a Peruvian NGO in charge of the Routes to Integration project. LinkedIn: coalicionve.

Mr. Mohammad Noor has established several Rohingya institutions, among which the Rohingya Project, and trained members of the Rohingya community worldwide. His contributed to the digitization and Unicode of First Rohingya Alphabet, served as the chairman of Rohingya Football Club, authored the " Born to Struggle: The Child of Rohingya Refugees and His Inspiring Journey" book and works on several assignments with the UNHCR, the Red Cross, IOM, International Network of Human Rights. Noor is the Co-Founder of Rohingya Vision (RVISION), the world's first Rohingya Satellite television channel. rohingyaproject.com

SUPPORTS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EVENT

Prof. Hubert Klumpner is an architecture and urban design professor at the Department of Architecture, ETHZ since 2010. He is responsible for the Chair of Architecture and Urban Design and co-founder of the Institute of Science, Technology and Policy. Prof. Klumpner is also the principal of the Architecture practice Urban-Think Tank Next. Awards: Golden Lion International Architecture Venice Biennale; GoldenHolcim Award South-America; UN-Habitat Best Practice. https://uttnext.com

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BLOCKCHAIN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LAUNCH AND PANEL DISCUSSION

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Donations to Blockchain for Human Rights are received through a fiscal host and administered by Apatride Network