



Civil Registration in the Context of Basic Human Rights

Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3 for Caribbean countries

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1- 4 December 2015



Human rights - concept

- ❑ International human rights embody universal ideals and standards of living
- ❑ Since its inception, United Nations focusses on establishing, promoting and implementing human rights
- ❑ In the context, United Nations emphasizes that the role played by civil registration in proving and establishing, implementing and realizing many of the human rights embodied in international declarations and conventions is one of its most important contributions to the functioning of contemporary societies

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Human rights legislation

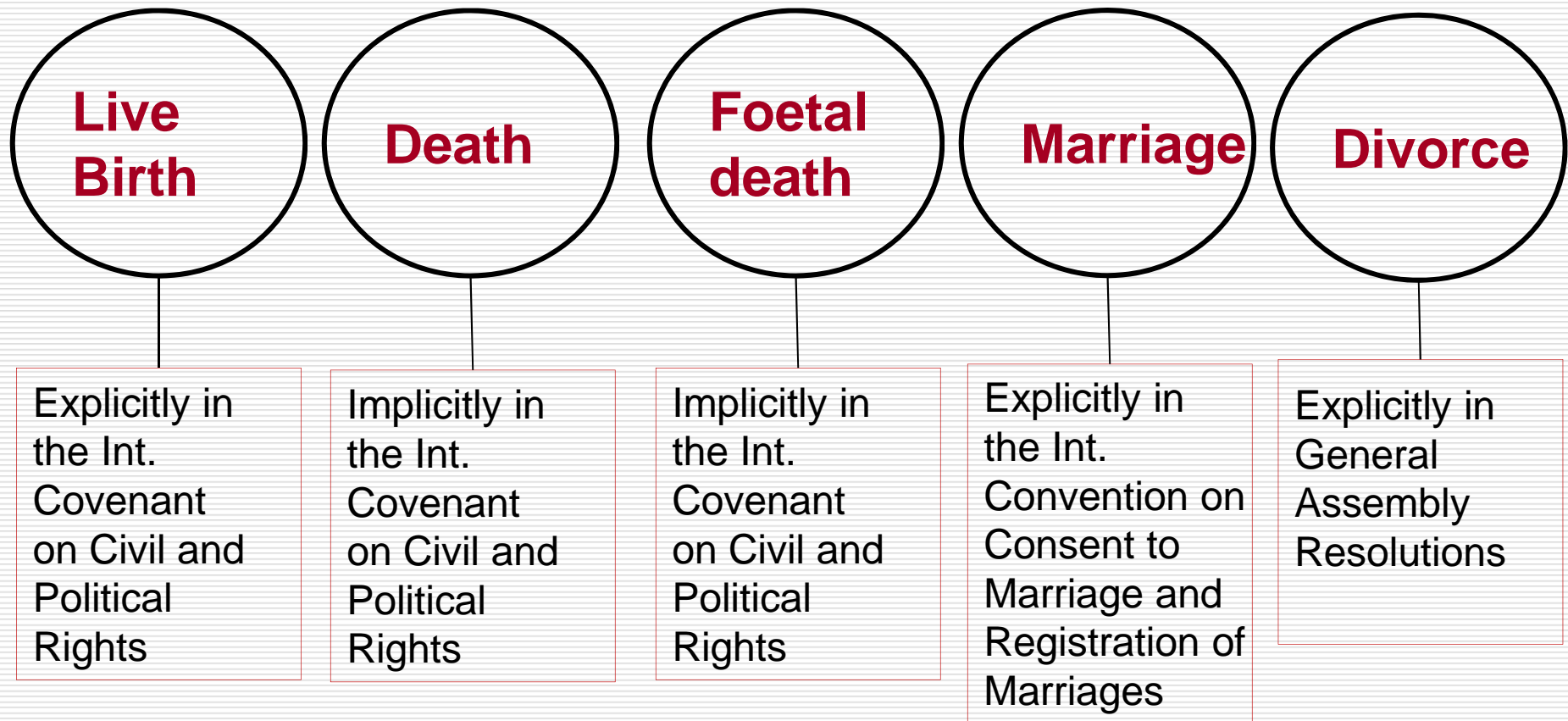
- ❑ Human rights in the context of civil registration are spelled in
 - ❑ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
 - ❑ Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 1959
 - ❑ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966
 - ❑ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966
 - ❑ Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, 1962
 - ❑ International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965
 - ❑ Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1967
 - ❑ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979
 - ❑ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990

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Right to register vital events



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Civil registration and human rights

- ❑ The exercise of many human rights developed and endorsed by the United Nations directly depends on civil registration and the existence of the civil registration system
- ❑ Denying exercise of human rights by the lack of proper and functioning civil registration – examples

Right to own identity

The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents. – Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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Civil registration and human rights

- ❑ Denying exercise of human rights by the lack of proper and functioning civil registration – examples

Right to marry

The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry should be recognized. – Article 23 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



Civil registration and human rights

- ❑ Denying exercise of human rights by the lack of proper and functioning civil registration – examples

Right to elect (vote) and be elected

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions ... to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of will of the electors – Article 25 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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List of human rights - continued

- Right of child to know its parents
- Right of child to a name
- Right of child to a nationality
- Right of the family for protection
- Right of protection from forced marriage
- Right of minors to rprotection from marriage
- Right to food
- Right to clothing
- Right to housing
- Right to work
- Right to property
- ...

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Concluding remarks

- Therefore, civil registration is crucial in enabling the exercise of basic human rights as civil registration is
 - Continuous
 - Permanent
 - Compulsory, and
 - Universal

recording of the occurrence of vital events, their characteristics and the characteristics of the persons concerned, in accordance with the provisions of the law and regulations of the country. These records, issued by the government, have legal value and can be used as proof of the occurrence in any court of law.



Concluding remarks

- Universal consensus on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, 17 Goals and 169 Targets
 - Vital statistics is a core component for monitoring the implementation of the agenda and assessment of the progress
 - As per the United Nations recommendations, regular, reliable and accurate small area vital statistics system is dependent of the fully functioning civil registration and reporting of the occurrence of all vital events
 - The role of civil registration goes well beyond being the source of vital statistics as it is crucial to ensuring legal identity and protection of human rights

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Concluding remarks

- Universal consensus on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Goals and Targets
 - Goal 16, target #9, reads:
 - By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

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Good and efficient governing and achieving all SD goals, especially related to public health, has to be based on informed decisions and accurate statistics

Ensuring basic human right is crucial for the normal functioning and governing of societies worldwide



Civil registration is, without doubt, the best source for accurate and reliable vital statistics

The exercise of many human rights depends directly on the existence of the functioning civil registration system

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