

Human Rights Council

Resolving issues of statelessness by addressing discriminatory practices



Forum: Human Rights Council
 Issue: Resolving issues of statelessness by addressing discriminatory practices
 By: Heloise Surry and Layla Zemmouri
 Position: President of the Human Rights Council and Secretary General

Introduction

“To be stripped of citizenship is to be stripped of worldliness. It is like returning to a wilderness as cavemen or savages where people could live and die without leaving any trace”.

- Hannah Arendt

The right to a nationality is a human right as declared in Article 15 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality." Yet some 4.3 million people in the world lack proof of legal identity. This “identification gap” is a serious obstacle to participation in political, economic and social life. Without a secure and trustworthy way to prove their identity, a person may be unable to exercise the range of human rights set out in international laws and conventions.

Stateless people are found in all parts of the globe — Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas—entire communities, new-born babies, children, couples and older people. Their one common curse, the lack of any nationality, deprives them of rights that the majority of the global population takes for granted. Often, they are excluded from cradle to grave—being denied a legal identity when they are born, access to education, health care, marriage and job opportunities during their lifetime and even the dignity of an official burial and a death certificate when they die.

Key Terms

Statelessness

The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons establishes the legal definition for stateless persons as individuals who are not considered citizens or nationals under the operation of the laws of any country. Some people are born stateless, but others become stateless.



Identity

A set of attributes that uniquely describes an individual or entity. The provision of identification—“proof of identity”—is embodied in Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.9, which requires the provision of “legal identity for all, including birth registration.”

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, internally displaced persons (also known as "IDPs") are "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border."

Uyghur

A Turkish ethnic group originating from the general region of Central/East Asia. One of the People's Republic of China's 55 officially recognized ethnic minorities. Most Uyghurs reside in Xinjiang UAR (Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region) a region in North-western China. Most Uyghurs identified themselves as Muslim since the 16th century and, gradually, Islam has become a central part of Uyghur culture and identity.

Nationality

According to Merriam-Webster, nationality is defined as “national status; a legal relationship involving allegiance on the part of an individual and usually protection on the part of the state.”

Jus Sanguinis

According to Merriam-Webster, it is defined as “a rule that a child's citizenship is determined by its parents' citizenship”. It is Latin and it translates to “right of blood”.

Jus Soli

According to Merriam-Webster, it is defined as “a rule that the citizenship of a child is determined by the place of its birth”. It is Latin and it translates to “right of the soil”.

Rohingya people

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is a Southeast Asian state with a multitude of ethnic groups, of which the government recognizes citizenship of roughly 135 groups. Not included in the recognition is the Rohingya people, a Muslim minority group residing primarily in the state of Rakhine, located in the west of Myanmar and bordering Bangladesh. The Rohingya people have their own distinct language and ethnic identification, and are practicing Sufi Muslims in a state primarily consisting of Buddhists. Despite centuries of evidence of the Rohingya people being in Myanmar, the government views the Rohingya people as immigrants from Bangladesh. Furthermore, the government of Bangladesh does not recognise the Rohingya people as citizens of Bangladesh. Without legal citizenship papers from either government, the Rohingya people have become stateless.



General Overview

Discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion, age, disability, language, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, are all causes of statelessness. Direct or indirect discrimination on these grounds is currently found in the nationality laws of more than 80 countries. The risks of statelessness associated with discriminatory nationality laws are underscored by the fact that more than 75% of the world's known stateless populations belong to ethnic, religious or linguistic minority groups. Statelessness can also occur for reasons such as the emergence of new States, the transfers of territory between existing States or disparities in nationality laws. National or local authorities may also lack the capacity, financial resources and expertise, to maintain civil status registries or issue replacement documentation. This is especially common, where conflict or natural disasters have disrupted the functioning of public institutions or where displacement is occurring on a large scale. In some cases, the authorities may also lack political willingness or under-estimate the importance of civil status and related documentation. Various logistical or practical difficulties, including restrictions on freedom of movement and/or inability to travel, for instance because of ongoing conflict can further aggravate statelessness.

Whatever the cause, lack of documentation and means of proving one's identity can have serious consequences for individuals and communities, including but not limited to restricted freedom of movement, limited access to life-saving assistance and services, and exposure to harassment or arbitrary arrest and detention.

Creating inclusive, secure, and trustworthy identification systems can empower individuals and improve their access to rights, services, and the official economy. It can also strengthen the scope of governments, the private sector, NGOs, and development partners to administer programs and deliver services transparently, efficiently, and effectively. The development benefits of improving identification systems may increase substantially with the adoption of digital technology, and many countries are already moving in this direction. However, at the same time that building identification systems—particularly digital ones—creates opportunities to further development goals, it may also create a number of challenges and risks.

The issue of statelessness is usually portrayed as an “invisible problem” in today's world, since most of the people take membership of a State for granted. More than 10 million individuals in all regions of the world are stateless, which means that they are not considered as nationals by any state under the operation of its law. Most of the time, and so as to temporarily cease the chaotic procedures and vanish proof of those groups, stateless persons are being registered as persons of “unknown nationality” or “non-citizens”. This phenomenon is a violation of one fundamental right protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which affirms that “everyone has the right to a nationality”. As a result, stateless people can be denied access to education, healthcare and employment, amenities that all nationalities provide. It is crucial to understand that someone can be born or even become stateless. There is a difference between undocumented and stateless persons even though most of the time statelessness is an issue on a global scale. Although different nationality laws in each country, border changes and the emergence of new states, as well as discriminatory practices in certain states are factors leading to lack of their citizenship. Political or legal directives and administrative obstacles are also reasons for statelessness. Apart from the aforementioned causes, the lack of birth registration could also lead to this situation. Over a third of the world's stateless population are children who are therefore at risk of abuse. This situation is a clear violation of the Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is important to note that a consequential amount of stateless people live in countries where mothers are not allowed to confer their nationality to their children.



Statelessness ends up in a vicious circle in which a stateless person struggles to do things taken for granted by most people around the world. These people are under the constant threat of arrest or detention. They cannot travel, be educated or get married due to their constant worry about the possibility of an identification check. It is obvious that the consequences could mostly be social, political and economic. Thus, the international community has to find a solution to this situation. Any attempt to eliminate statelessness must include necessary legal & policy reforms, which national governments should put in place. There are several parties that hold an important role, in order to support the efforts against statelessness. The four pillars that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office responsible for stateless people, have put in place concerning the issue are: identification, prevention, reduction & protection. The expertise of other United Nations (UN) agencies, international and regional organizations, as well as Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) overlaps with the work of UNHCR on these four fronts. Of course, the local knowledge of national human rights institutions, civil society groups, legal associations and academics, is of high importance, as well. Last but not least, the stateless people themselves, those who are still fighting to bring the debate on the right to a nationality on the forefront of the international community, should be on the focal point of any conversation and action against statelessness. Currently, the number of stateless persons around the world is approximately ten million. Statelessness is an issue that is transmitted from parent to child – just notice that two decades after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, there are still over 600.000 former Soviet nationals that remain stateless. A 2013 Constitutional Court ruling in the Dominican Republic led to the deprivation of the nationality of Dominicans with a Haitian descent, the number of which was in the tens of thousands. Perhaps the most publicized case of stateless persons, the Rohingya in Myanmar, have been refused nationality under the 1982 citizenship law and have been deprived of their freedom of movement, religion, education and healthcare. One of the most persecuted minorities in the world, as described by the United Nations in 2013, their population was estimated to be over a million, at least before the “collective punishment” of ethnic cleansing that the Burmese authorities carried out in Myanmar the previous year. However, hope remains. The United Nations has become more active in the second decade of the 21st century in regard to statelessness, as evidenced in what was mentioned above about the campaign of the UNHCR to increase the accessions on the two Conventions regarding the issue. Furthermore, the United Nations started the #IBelong Campaign in 2014, accompanied by a Global Action Plan to End Statelessness by 2024.

The Uyghur people

For example, a crisis of statelessness looming is the Uyghurs living overseas. The Chinese government is denying Uyghurs the renewal of their expiring passports. Chinese embassy officials tell Uyghurs that the only way to renew a passport is to return to China. Those Uyghurs who have returned to China have disappeared. Those who have not returned due to the fear of disappearing are denied legal status abroad, which has a direct impact on their livelihoods, freedom of movement, and capacity to start new lives outside of China.



Possession of documents such as a passport is easily taken for granted. The lack of documentation of stateless Uyghurs impacts their livelihoods, marriages, living situations, studies, and freedom of movement. In other words, the denial of a passport is also the denial of a dignified life. As a result, Uyghurs are pushed to the fringes of societies in order to survive.

The Uyghurs and the UHRP (Uyghurs Human Right Project) have raised their voices concerning the fact that they do not want to resort to using predatory passport agents or to breaking the law; they merely want to live securely and get on with building new lives. As one Uyghur told UHRP, an overseas passport is the green light for a new life among many Uyghurs. In interviews Uyghurs also expressed the psychological pressure of living without documents, as well as the trauma of news from East Turkistan about loved ones taken into camps or harshly sentenced. The fear of deportation and frequent separation from spouses, children, and parents in East Turkistan were recurring themes. Interviewees were mostly reluctant to criticize local authorities in places such as Turkey, blaming the Chinese government for their problems. Not only are Uyghurs overseas, cut off from support – especially young students – they are also harassed for personal details and threatened to return to their hometowns by police in China.

Uyghurs are used to restrictions on their freedom of movement in China. They are subjected to racialized checkpoints across their homeland, and during the tenure of Party Secretary Zhang Chunxian they were forced to carry the *bianmin* card, a type of internal passport aimed at curbing Uyghurs' ability to travel freely. Uyghurs called the card the 'yeshil kart[a],' or 'green card', because it made them feel like immigrants in their own country. However, the denial of passports to overseas Uyghurs constitutes an attempt to control free movement abroad. Such targeted policies remind Uyghurs that even if they live outside of China's borders, the Chinese state retains control over them. As a result, some Uyghurs are resorting to the use of fake documents.

The Rohingya People

“Nowhere is the link between statelessness and displacement more evident than for the Rohingya community of Myanmar, for whom denial of citizenship is a key aspect of the entrenched discrimination and exclusion that have shaped their plight for decades. Resolving their displacement in Myanmar, Bangladesh and elsewhere in the region will require an end to violence, but also a two track approach to address the root causes of their flight: by resolving issues related to citizenship and rights, and through inclusive development that addresses the entrenched poverty affecting all communities in Rakhine State.”

Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The Rohingyas, a population of over one million stateless people, resided for years in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. On August 25th, 2017, however, violence broke out and since then, over 600.000 have fled violence and the violations of their human rights to Bangladesh.

In Myanmar, where most of the Rohingya people were born and raised, they are stateless, deprived of a normal life and a hope for the future. This is due to the restrictive provision and application of the 1982 Myanmar citizenship law, which primarily confers citizenship on the basis of race. The Burmese government does not even recognize the term “Rohingya”, and the Rohingya people are forced to identify themselves as “Bengali”. The serious marginalization these people face and their deprivation of citizenship are inextricably linked, and in order for this humanitarian crisis to be resolved, and for Rohingyas to return sustainably to Myanmar, the issue of statelessness must be addressed.



The plight of the Rohingyas is hardly limited to military crackdowns. Throughout the years, they have been deprived of basic human rights, such as the freedom of movement. The constraints on that particular right is one of the major problems Rohingyas face, since it prevents them from seeking work in other villages, trading, fishing – even attending the funeral of a relative, or visit a doctor. The latter, of course, if they are able to access public healthcare. The North Rakhine State is, in addition, a militarized zone, where the Rohingya men are forced to offer their labor. The authorities confiscate property, cash, food, and in general, use coercive and abusive recruitment methods in this area. The duties of the Rohingyas are building model villages that include military establishments, roads, bridges, embankments, buildings, pagodas and ponds, as well as ploughing the farmland and growing vegetables and fruits. To add insult to injury, this takes place on land confiscated from the very same Rohingya population that is forced to work without wages on building the model villages, which takes up all of their time leaving none to work on their own, and their family's well-being. This work is, of course, overtaxed. For instance, the tax rates of the products that the Rohingyas harvest is about two thirds of the market price of that product. The Rohingya students are denied access to education since the 1982 Myanmar citizenship law as well. Even if they were admitted to university or any type of higher education, they are unable to pursue their studies due to the prohibition of movement. Rohingyas are only allowed to travel with a special travel permission from the authorities, under very humiliating conditions and by paying large sums of cash – as a result, a majority of students stop their further studies, and are, since February 2005, even banned from the University of Sittwe (which is located in the Rakhine State) & Yangon, the former capital of Burma.

An important point to our debate are the arbitrary arrests, detention, torture and eventual extrajudicial killings that they face. Especially following the 2016-17 military crackdown, the number of Rohingyas in detention centers has risen, leaving all stateless persons confined, without documents, without equal access to law and, certainly without a just and fair legal procedure, in the rare cases they receive one.

The Roma people

On June 15th, 2017, the European Court of Human Rights communicated the case Hasani v. the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (f.Y.R.o.M), the most recent in a series of cases that deal with a stateless Roma applicant, portraying the struggle that Roma communities face in the Western Balkans, due to statelessness and a lack of documentation. The prosecutor, Ms. Emrana Hasani, fled Kosovo in 1999, when she was 10. She has lived in the fYRoM ever since, as a person of international protection. However, she is not recognized by either state as a national, and she lacks any documents due to this predicament. As a result, she cannot marry her partner, who is a citizen of the fYRoM.

The Ministry of Interior of the fYRoM terminated her international protection status, and ordered her to leave the country since the circumstances for which her status was granted have ceased to exist and, at the same time, she did not take any action to regularize her residence through marriage. However, as stated above, she could not marry her partner, due to the lack of documents



Despite the fact that the fYRoM has both jus sanguinis and jus soli as modes of citizenship acquisition, discrimination in the country has led the Roma individuals to not register the birth of their children. A birth registration costs €2.75 while a residence permit costs about €20. While these amounts are not excessive, for unemployed individuals (which is the case for over 75% of the Roma people in the fYRoM, a country where the average monthly wage is €270), this can be prohibitive.

While stateless people are invisible to the legal and social welfare systems, they are not to repressive bodies, which have no problem finding them in violation of migration rules and sending them to detention centers for migrants pending deportation. But there is nowhere to deport them.

The Roma minority is at particular risk for statelessness because they move frequently, they often have a careless attitude towards documents, and lack the education to understand bureaucratic procedures. Given that the state does not acknowledge its positive obligation to document the population, the situation of Roma people is exacerbated by racial bias and discriminatory treatment on the part of migration workers, registration bodies, passport offices, and other state agencies.

In Europe, the problem of statelessness caused by the dissolution of the Soviet Union has still not been overcome. The independence of former Soviet states, the appearance of new borders and passport control, and the need to turn in old Soviet passports and acquire new citizenship have posed a series of problems for the civil status of people who were born, got married, and had children in republics that differ from the ones they were in when the Soviet Union broke up. The economic hardships of the 1990s forced many Roma to move again and caused new problems with documents.

The issue of children born in refugee camps

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency revealed that between 2018 and 2021, an average of between 350,000 and 400,000 children were born into a refugee life per year

Children born in refugee camps are born into a reality of displacement, limited resources, and lack of access to basic services such as healthcare, education and protection. They may be exposed to a range of risks such as malnutrition, disease, exploitation, violence, and abuse. They may also experience the psychological impact of displacement, including stress, depression, trauma, and anxiety.

The number of children seeking safety is steadily increasing worldwide. In 2021, it was estimated that children below 18 years of age comprised 41% of the overall displaced population despite comprising 30% of the global population. For people who seek asylum and refuge, this process is all the more difficult due to the circumstances under which they depart their home country. Some of the documented challenges faced by these children are language and communication barriers, racism and discrimination, exclusion from the community, a disrupted education or schooling, distance and lack of communication with families in the home country and/ or countries of asylum (particularly if/where the family remains in a conflict situation), ongoing mental health issues due to trauma, including survivor guilt, visa insecurity (temporary visa holders) and separation from family members.



More often times than not, children born in refugee camps outside of their own country are stuck in a ‘legal limbo’, meaning they are not eligible for permanent residence through some other route may face long-term limbo in. They can apply for permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, but this is discretionary and the guidelines do not direct officers to take into consideration the particular situation of stateless persons.

Children born in refugee camps are at risk of statelessness if their parents or guardians are also stateless or they have been displaced from their home country without proper documentation, an issue that is unfortunately widespread. In some cases, governments may refuse to register these children as citizens, leaving them without legal identity or access to services.

Major Parties Involved

People’s Republic of China

The People’s Republic of China, or rather the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are those directly responsible for the crimes against humanity and violation of basic human rights committed against the Uyghur Muslims and other minorities. The current political scenario of the country as a quite rigid regime does not allow for much outside involvement by other organizations or powers such as NGOs and other world powers. The main motivator behind this lack of engagement with the issue is the PRC's status as a world superpower and economic superpower with extensive trading relations. Another reason for this is the fear of repercussions inside the PRC. All protests and discussion of the lack of rights of the Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are done outside of China.

The Chinese government has also long weaponized access to passports through corruption, confiscations, and discriminatory procedures. Control is now exerted through effectively denying Uyghurs the right to a passport. Chinese embassy officials tell Uyghurs that the only way to renew a passport is to return to China. Those Uyghurs who have returned to China have disappeared. Lack of documentation impacts the livelihoods, marriages, living situations, studies, and freedom of movement of Uyghurs abroad. UHRP recommends that states recognize the deprivation of passports as a violation of Uyghur rights and understand the danger that returning to China presents to Uyghurs. States should ensure that Uyghurs have access to Convention Travel Documents and are granted asylee status in a timely manner.



Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has been very supportive of China's actions and commend them for their rigorous approach to driving terrorism and extremism out of their country. Of course, Saudi Arabia denies all allegations of crimes against humanity and supports China's argument against the "politicization of human rights". Discrimination against women in nationality legislation, and the protracted statelessness experienced by certain groups in Saudi Arabia also create and/or prolong statelessness, while also negatively impacting a range of other human rights.

Turkey

Turkey has been accused of deporting Uyghur Muslims back to China via third party countries (such as Tajikistan) that neighbor the western Chinese province of Xinjiang, where hundreds of thousands are said to be held in concentration camps.

Human Rights Watch

The Human Rights Watch has been actively involved in thorough investigation and documentation of the situation in Xinjiang pertaining to the Uyghur Muslims (as well as other Muslim/Turkish minorities). They have published interviews conducted with Xinjiang residents regarding the mass arbitrary detention and published a multitude of reports outlining the crimes against humanity taking place in Xinjiang. In addition, they were amongst the first to have publicly deplored China for these crimes and called on pertinent international organizations to take the appropriate action.

Sweden

Sweden was the first to grant asylum to the Uyghur Muslims and is urging other European Nations to do so given the future that allegedly lies ahead for the Uyghurs in Xinjiang and even beyond.

EU

Statelessness affects both migrants and refugees and people who have lived in the same place for generations. Stateless refugees are among those seeking asylum in many European countries. In the Balkans and former Soviet Union, many Roma and other minority groups remain stateless or at risk of statelessness because of ethnic discrimination and the legacy of state succession.

Thousands of children are born stateless in Europe each year because States do not have full safeguards in place to identify children at risk of statelessness and prevent this from happening. In addition, there are stateless people who have migrated to Europe but have become stranded in limbo because of a lack of procedures to identify and determine statelessness – sometimes after having been refused asylum.

Jordan

More than half of the 6.3 million population of Jordan is of Palestinian origin—that is, from areas west of the River Jordan, including the West Bank, today's Israel, and Gaza. With the exception of persons from Gaza, the vast majority of those persons of Palestinian origin have Jordanian citizenship. However, since 1988, and especially over the past few years, the Jordanian government has been arbitrarily and without notice withdrawing Jordanian nationality from its citizens of Palestinian origin, making them stateless.



Other countries

More than two decades after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, over 600,000 people remain stateless; some 300,000 Urdu-speaking Biharis were denied citizenship by the government of Bangladesh when the country gained its independence in 1971; in Côte d'Ivoire, there are 700,000 stateless people who have no nationality or the rights that flow from it; more than 800,000 Rohingya in Myanmar have been refused nationality under the 1982 citizenship law and their freedom of movement, religion and education severely curtailed.

Timeline of Key events



Previous Attempts to solve the Issue - UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons

The 1954 Convention is designed to ensure that stateless people enjoy a minimum set of human rights. It establishes the legal definition of a stateless person as someone who is "not recognized as a national by any state under the operation of its law." The 1954 Convention also establishes minimum standards of treatment for stateless people in respect to a number of rights. These include, but are not limited to, the right to education, employment and housing. Importantly, the 1954 Convention also guarantees stateless people a right to identity, travel documents and administrative assistance.

83 States were present in November 2014 when the UNHCR launched the Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years.

1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

The 1961 Convention aims to prevent statelessness and reduce it over time. It establishes an international framework to ensure the right of every person to a nationality (safeguards around conferring and withdrawing citizenship to prevent statelessness). It requires that states establish safeguards in their nationality laws to prevent statelessness at birth and later in life. Perhaps the most important provision of the convention establishes that children are to acquire the nationality of the country in which they are born if they do not acquire any other nationality. It also sets out important safeguards to prevent statelessness due to loss or renunciation of nationality and state succession. The convention also sets out the very limited situations in which states can deprive a person of his or her nationality, even if this would leave them stateless.

There were 61 states party to the 1961 Convention in November 2014 when teams at UNHCR launched the Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years.



The Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) recognizes that sustainable development can only be achieved if all persons, including those who are stateless, have access to justice and a legal identity, including birth registration. The #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years Launched in November 2014, the #IBelong Campaign aims to end statelessness within ten years, by identifying and protecting stateless people, resolving existing situations of statelessness and preventing the emergence of new cases. Through legal advocacy and awareness-raising, UNHCR works with governments and partners around the globe towards achieving the Campaign goals.

Principles on identification for sustainable development: towards the digital age

Endorsed by Asian Development Bank (ADB), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Center for Global Development (CGD), Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mastercard, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Plan International, Secure Identity Alliance (SIA), The GSMA, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA),

World Bank Group

Facilitated by World Bank Group and Center for Global Development.

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has long worked on improving birth registration and civil registries, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) can help governments design and implement national censuses, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) supports monitoring of the human rights of stateless people.

Possible Solutions

Countries lack effective national frameworks to put their international legal obligations to address statelessness into practice. This leaves many stateless people in limbo, unable to resolve their situation and acquire a nationality. States need to introduce dedicated law, policy and procedures to enable them to identify and determine who is stateless, so they can grant stateless people their rights, protection, and a route to acquiring a nationality.

Universal birth registration and certification is a way to prevent statelessness and ensure every child can acquire a nationality. Yet, some children in Europe still face the risk of statelessness due to persisting barriers to birth registration. Ensuring every child in Europe has a birth certificate from birth would help to prevent and reduce statelessness. In addition to this, States must reform and implement their nationality laws in such a way as to ensure that every child on their territory can realise their right to a nationality and that no child is born stateless in Europe.



What steps should be followed in order to identify stateless populations? How can we ensure everybody has a legal status? What can be done to prevent and reduce the phenomenon of statelessness? What is being done to ensure the physical and economic access to food or means for its procurement for stateless persons? How do they access potable water for drinking, cooking, sanitation & health services? How can it be ensured that all persons get a just, formal, national procedure that determines their status? Are they equal before the law? How can it be guaranteed that stateless persons have access to public primary curative & preventative health care services? Can we ensure that stateless children have access to free primary education? Can we secure their access to higher education? How could we ensure the inclusion of stateless persons under labor laws? What can be done to eliminate discrimination against stateless person? What actions should be followed to decrease state violence against stateless individuals?



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