

# Statelessness as a consequence of forced migration



## #IBELONG

10 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD  
HAVE NO NATIONALITY

Join us in our campaign to  
end statelessness

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

In cooperation with  
**UNITED COLORS  
OF BENETTON.**

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Bratislava, July 2017

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

# Overview

Statelessness as a consequence of forced migration:

1. Nationals who become stateless
2. Children who are born stateless
3. Birth registration
4. How to prevent statelessness as a consequence of forced migration?

72. We recognize that statelessness can be a root cause of forced displacement and that forced displacement, in turn, can lead to statelessness.

- New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, September 2016

- European Parliament resolution of 25 October 2016 on human rights and migration in third countries
- EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019:
  - ‘Focus efforts on preventing the emergence of stateless populations as a result of conflict, displacement and the break-up of states.’

# 1. Nationals who become stateless

- Loss of nationality following long term residence abroad
  - Statelessness if no safeguards are in place
  - Especially affects naturalized citizens
- Renunciation of nationality without acquisition of another nationality
  - Statelessness if no safeguards are in place

# 1. Nationals who become stateless

- State succession
  - Limitations in defining the body of citizens.
  - Lack of formal residence.
  - Deadlines for registration as nationals.
  - Etc.

## 2. Children who are born stateless

- When additional action is needed for children to acquire the nationality of their parents
- When children are born to parents who cannot transfer their nationality
  - Stateless in the absence of adequate safeguards.
  - 26 countries where women cannot confer nationality like men.

## 2. Children who are born stateless

- Children born to stateless parents
  - Stateless in the absence of adequate safeguards.



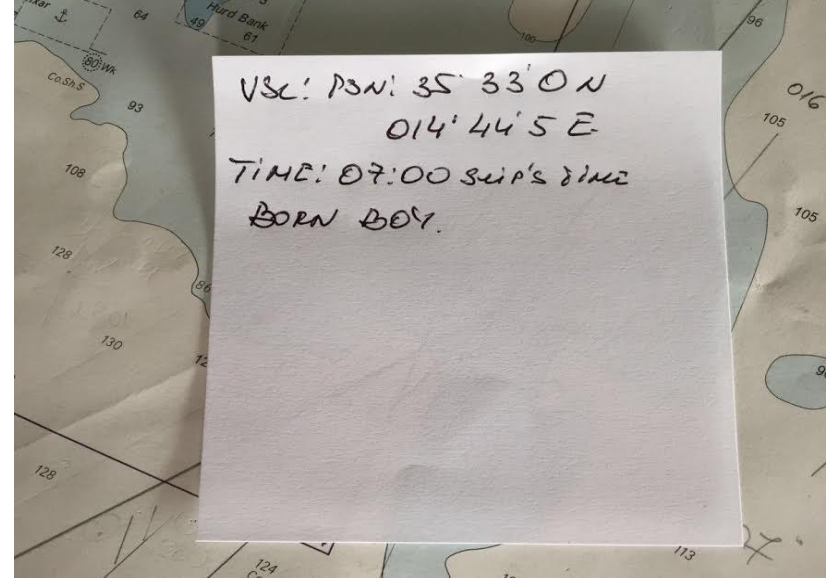
## 2. Children who are born stateless



- Between 2012 and 2016, in the EU:
  - > 56.000 asylum applicants were registered as stateless
  - > 55.000 asylum applicants registered as ‘nationality unknown’



# 3. Birth registration



- Why is birth registration important?
  - Establishes a legal identity.
  - Establishes the link to the parents and country of birth.

## 4. How to prevent statelessness in the context of forced migration?

- Avoid gaps in nationality laws at birth and upon loss and deprivation.
- Ensure adequate birth registration of all children born in exile.
- Identify stateless persons and the risks of statelessness throughout the migration cycle



- Thank you
- Questions?



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