

WHAT IS STATELESSNESS?

In international law, a stateless person is “a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law”. This means someone who does not have the nationality (citizenship) of any country in the world. People usually get their nationality at birth from their parents or the country they were born in. It's also normally possible to acquire a nationality through marriage, residence or adoption.

CAUSES OF STATELESSNESS

- ✓ Gender discriminatory nationality laws*
- ✓ Discrimination against minorities and other groups
- ✓ Lack of safeguards in nationality laws to prevent statelessness
- ✓ Barriers to civil registration, particularly birth registration
- ✓ Conflicts between nationality laws of different countries
- ✓ State succession
- ✓ Nationality stripping
- ✓ Displacement

* The laws of 25 countries deny women the right to confer their nationality to their children on an equal basis with men.



<https://equalnationalityrights.org/>

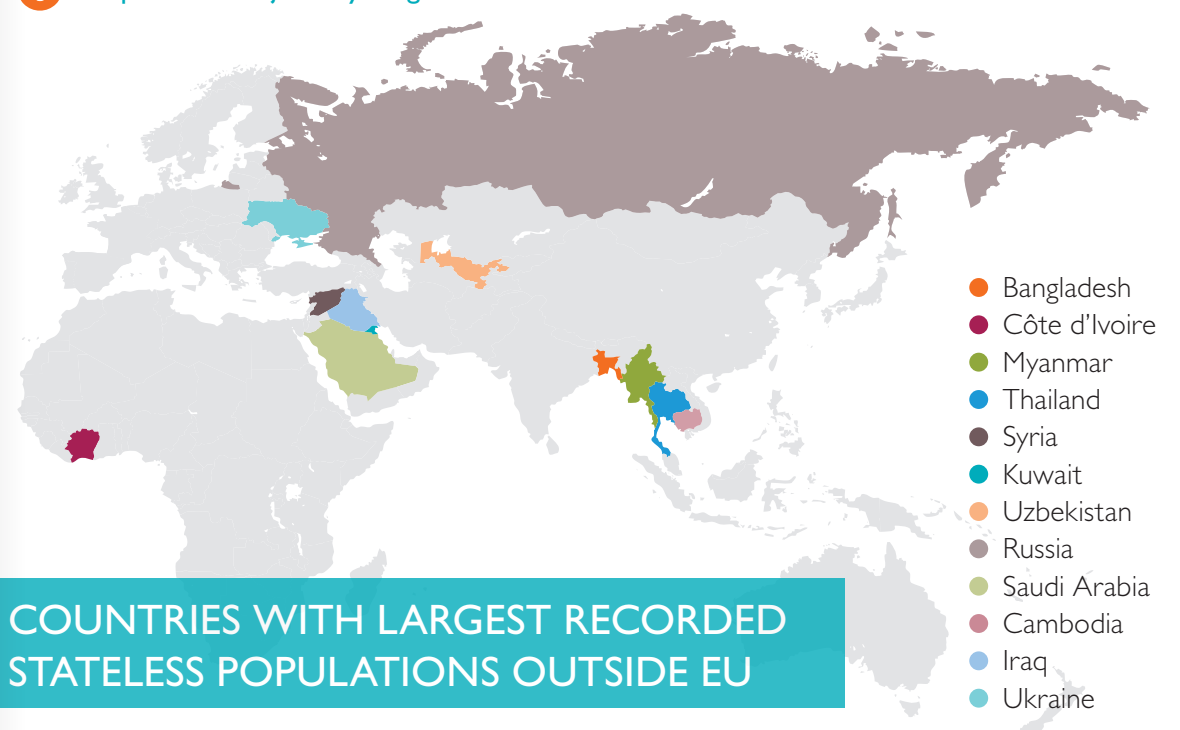


STATELESSNESS: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

WHO IS AFFECTED?

Over 10 million people worldwide and 600,000 in Europe are estimated to be stateless. Almost 100,000 first-time asylum applicants in the EU were recorded as “stateless” or “unknown nationality” in 2015-18. Some of the largest recorded stateless populations in the world include Rohingya, Palestinians, Kurds, Kuwaiti bidoon, Ivorians, Sahrawis and people from the former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia. But statelessness can affect anyone and reliable data is scarce.

<https://statelessjourneys.org/resources/>



COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST RECORDED STATELESS POPULATIONS OUTSIDE EU

Source: UNHCR's 2018 Global Trends Report

WHAT RIGHTS DO STATELESS PEOPLE HAVE?

The 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons provides specific rights under international law, but only a handful of European states have laws or policy in place to identify and determine who is stateless on their territory. So many stateless people in Europe fall through protection gaps.

[UNHCR's Handbook on the Protection of Stateless Persons for more information on the 1954 Convention: https://bit.ly/2PCGZ86](https://bit.ly/2PCGZ86)

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

STATELESS JOURNEYS | <https://statelessjourneys.org/>
Information and tools to support work with stateless refugees in Europe

STATELESSNESS INDEX | <https://index.statelessness.eu>

An online comparative tool assessing law, policy & practice relating to the protection of stateless people and prevention of statelessness in countries across Europe

EUROPEAN NETWORK ON STATELESSNESS (ENS) | <https://www.statelessness.eu>

A civil society alliance of over 140 NGOs, lawyers, activists and other experts committed to addressing statelessness in Europe. ENS publishes a weekly blog, quarterly newsletter and its website hosts a wide range of resources, including a list of national members

INSTITUTE ON STATELESSNESS AND INCLUSION (ISI) | <https://institutesi.org>

A human rights NGO working on statelessness globally, promoting inclusive societies by realising and protecting the right to a nationality. ISI's work includes research, training, advocacy, creating knowledge tools, information-sharing and building strategic alliances.