

Contest: My nationality has a story

A Stateless person promise

It was a sunny day, I was at the airport with my friends about to take a flight and in order to pass the time it occurred to us to tell funny anecdotes or those which had a sentimental value for us. That is why it occurred to me to tell how we got to know each other: 3 years ago I went to a pretty normal school where I had quite good grades and I was happy about my school performance but there were not only good things. According to what my parents told me I should have been born in Colombia, but because of family problems we had to move to Chile. Unfortunately, we did not have many options how to get to Chile and that is why we had to cross illegally. I was born on the road and my parents were afraid of this, because of the possibility of me becoming a stateless child.

The years passed by and I did not give it too much weight until I entered high school and many things changed, I realized that I was the only stateless girl in my class, which somehow made me feel uncomfortable. I didn't have many friends so you could say that I was rather unsociable. Afterwards they did campaigns so that people like me could manage to obtain a nationality. When I heard that, I got happy because at school I was usually bothered over and over again because of that. Although I did not take it seriously, I was rather happy about the fact that with a nationality you could obtain a passport and leave to explore the world. I remember that in the same week, while being in language class, the inspector entered and he took me out of the classroom and he explained me that an organization was gathering students from different schools who were stateless in order to give their opinion about the topic. That same day I was excited to try to find new friends who would really understand how I felt being a stateless person, so we headed towards a school where all of the students would gather.

When I entered I realized that we were all the same and different at the same time because some of them expressed themselves in a different way, they dressed differently, but we were all stateless. The activities had begun and since they decided to carry them out in groups of four, I did not have a group until I realized that in one group there was one person missing, so I

came closer and I asked them kindly if I could join them and they said yes. We became close friends and we made each other a promise: "We will save money so when we become Chileans we can travel". The four of us were going out to the cinema, to eat and to play until one day thanks to my friends and people that supported us when we needed it the most we achieved to become Chileans. That day was yesterday and today we find ourselves about to enter a plane for the first time.

SEBASTIÁN MUÑOZ

Eighth grade

SECOND PLACE