

ADVOCACY BRIEF

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT

**RESPONSE**

IN EUROPE



UNICEF/UN040813/Pirozzi

# Ending childhood statelessness in Europe

Statelessness hinders children from realising their rights. The fact that there are many children who are stateless or at risk of becoming stateless in Europe is therefore a serious concern. While not a new phenomenon, the numbers of children concerned have been rising due the high arrivals of refugees and migrants in Europe in 2015/2016<sup>1</sup>. States have clear legal obligations resulting from the ratification of relevant international and regional treaties to prevent childhood statelessness and to take action to resolve existing cases. Moreover, Governments committed in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to achieve 'legal identity for all, including birth registration' (SDG Target 16.9), which has positioned the prevention and reduction of statelessness as a development issue.

This is a call to urgent action by States and regional organisations to bring an end to childhood statelessness. The issue is not insurmountable, and can be addressed by a series of low-cost, effective and sustainable solutions.

## Being nobody

Stateless children are not recognized as nationals by any State's domestic law. Children who are stateless feel the impact in their daily lives in profound ways. Discrimination based on statelessness, including limited access to critical services such as education and health care, can expose children to protection risks including violence, abuse, trafficking and other forms of exploitation. As they lack civil documentation, stateless children and their families face the risk of arrest and detention. Living in limbo and constant

uncertainty, in the absence of a legal status, also bears a detrimental psychological impact for stateless children and their families.

'I want them to have what I did not have. I don't want them to live my life [...] I am nobody. If I disappeared from the face of the Earth, nobody would have known.'

— Ionela, Romania, mother of stateless Roma children

States' obligations to prevent childhood statelessness and to take actions to resolve existing cases derive from both international and European law. As parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, States are obliged to ensure that each child is registered immediately after birth and has the right to acquire a nationality.<sup>2</sup> Under the UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, States must protect stateless children and facilitate their naturalisation. To do so, States should develop procedures to identify stateless persons.<sup>3</sup> The UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness<sup>4</sup> and the European Convention on Nationality set out safeguards to ensure that foundlings and children born stateless in a territory acquire nationality.<sup>5</sup>

## Stateless children in Europe

Three groups of children are particularly affected by statelessness in Europe.

- 1. Stateless children who come to Europe, mostly as refugee and migrant children, originating from countries with known stateless populations.** As the overall number of asylum-seeking children in Europe has grown over the past few years— with a peak in 2015 and 2016 – so has the number of children identified as ‘stateless’. As seen in Table 1, in 2017 over 2,000 children who applied for asylum were registered as ‘stateless’. This represents a fourfold increase of first-time asylum applications in the EU by children recorded as ‘stateless’ compared to 2010. Yet, in 2015 this number exceeded 6,000. Some of these children come from countries with known stateless populations.
- 2. Children who are born stateless in Europe due to lack of legal safeguards against statelessness and other practical obstacles.** This includes children who cannot inherit their parents’ nationality due to gender discrimination, gaps in nationality laws, or other legal and administrative obstacles, and children inheriting their parents’ statelessness. As a result of the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, for example, at least 10,000 people remain affected by or are at risk of statelessness in the Western Balkans, while the 2001 population census in Ukraine recorded over 17,500 stateless children.
- 3. Children born in Europe are at heightened risk of statelessness due to a lack of birth registration.** This includes especially children of vulnerable minority populations like the Roma both in EU member states and EU candidate and potential candidate countries.

‘We did not go to school because we had to work with my uncle in order to survive. It is not easy. I have been stopped by the police many times and threatened to be arrested and fined, because I did not have an identity card. I lived in fear.’

— Raman, born and raised stateless in Serbia, before he acquired documents confirming his identity

**No child should be stateless. With the appropriate legal and policy response, States can prevent and end child statelessness in Europe.**

### Situation 1: Stateless children arriving in Europe

#### Ahmed

After a perilous sea journey, 16 year-old Ahmed arrived in Europe in the summer of 2017 as an unaccompanied child. His mother lives in Kuwait and his father is a recognized refugee

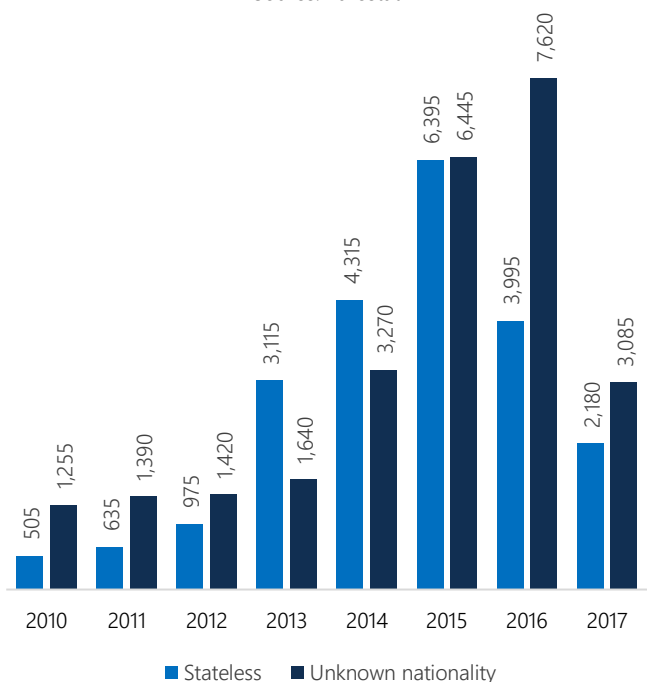
in the United Kingdom. Ahmed and his family are Bidoon, a known stateless population mostly found in the Gulf States. Though Ahmed lived in Kuwait all his life, he was not granted nationality. When he arrived in Europe, he informed the authorities of his situation but he was wrongly registered as an Iraqi national.

It is important to record the possible statelessness of refugee and migrant children from the moment of arrival. Statelessness may affect the outcome of their asylum claim. Statelessness may establish the risk of persecution in their country of origin as required by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; or the need for subsidiary protection. Furthermore, countries of origin may not be willing to readmit a child following the rejection of his/her asylum application and when return is considered in the best interests of the child if s/he is not considered a national of that country.

The actual number of children who arrived or are born stateless in Europe is unknown. Border guards, police, immigration, asylum or civil registration officials may not be familiar with statelessness or are not equipped/authorized to identify and determine people as stateless. Consequently, children may end up being registered as nationals of their country of origin or as ‘nationality unknown’. Table 1 shows the considerable increase since 2013 in children seeking asylum in the EU registered under “nationality unknown”.

**Table 1. First time asylum applications in the EU by children recorded as stateless or of unknown nationality**

Source: Eurostat



Once possible statelessness is recorded, a proper assessment of a child's nationality or statelessness should take place. This requires dedicated procedures with procedural safeguards and specialized staff trained in making such assessments. Many States lack a formal procedure to determine statelessness. When a child who was displaced or migrated to Europe is determined to be stateless, he or she should have access to rights and protection as per the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. This includes access to facilitated naturalization.<sup>6</sup> Only twelve countries of arrival, transit or destination in the region have dedicated statelessness determination procedures in place.<sup>7</sup>

## Scenario 2: Children born stateless in Europe

### Stera and Mohamed

Stera (12) and Mohamed (9) were born stateless in Europe. Even though they speak English like all their friends, they realize they are different as they do not have the same access to services as their peers. They do not have a nationality because their father is a stateless Kurd who fled Syria, and their mother is a Syrian national. Under Syrian nationality law, mothers can confer nationality only in exceptional cases: if the child was born in Syria and the father does not establish filiation in relation to the child. However, due to the stigma associated with having a child out of marriage, the exception is often not applied in practice.<sup>8</sup>



© Darrin Zammit Lupi / Islelanders Project supported by UNHCR

Children born in Europe to refugee or migrant parents may inherit their parents' statelessness. In addition, when women are unable to pass on their nationality to their children because of discriminatory laws in their countries of origin, and those children do not acquire nationality from their father, they are born stateless- highlighting the need to remove gender discrimination from nationality legislation. This may be the case when the father cannot transfer nationality because he is stateless, has died, has abandoned or been separated

from the family or is unwilling or unable to do so.<sup>9</sup> If the nationality law and practice of the European country of birth does not provide a safeguard for children born stateless in that country, these children will remain stateless for an extended period of time, or even their entire lives.<sup>10</sup>

The nationality laws of 17 European States automatically provide nationality to a child who would otherwise be stateless and is born on their territory<sup>11</sup>, even if further efforts are needed when it comes to the implementation of these laws in practice. In other European countries, nationality laws impose requirements for the acquisition of nationality by the child born stateless that are not permitted under the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, thereby excluding a number of children, like those in an irregular migratory situation.<sup>12</sup>

## Scenario 3: Statelessness and lack of birth registration

### The Elsanis

The Elsanis are a Roma family of eight who live in a settlement just outside a coastal town in a successor State to the former Yugoslavia. They are part of a group of over 1,000 people who spent years without formal recognition of their identity following the war in Kosovo (UN Security Council Resolution 1244/1999). Having fled without documents, they were unable to prove their identities. Without documents, the parents could not register the births of their children. For years, the children could not access education, employment or health care. Now they finally have birth registration and identity documents, and a pathway to citizenship, ending the uncertainty that kept the family deprived of basic human rights for almost two decades.



© UNHCR / Miomir Laban

Despite high birth registration rates in Europe, not all children born in Europe are registered at birth. Although birth registration and acquisition of nationality are two separate

processes, birth registration facilitates the acquisition of nationality. Birth registration documents where a child was born and who the child's parents are, key pieces of information needed to establish which nationality a child has acquired or can acquire. Without a birth certificate, it is difficult to prove that the child has the relevant link to a State that entitles him or her to nationality. This creates a risk of statelessness for certain groups whose entitlement to nationality might be called into question, for example minority groups, border-dwelling and nomadic communities, refugees and migrants.<sup>13</sup>

In Europe, children may end up not being registered at birth<sup>14</sup> when born outside medical centres, or when their parents are in an irregular migration situation and refrain from registration out of fear of being arrested, detained or deported.<sup>15</sup> Birth registration is also hampered when undocumented parents are requested to submit their own identity documents and they themselves were not registered at birth.<sup>16</sup>

The lack of birth registration is a problem especially among Roma communities. Data shows those living in informal settlements and in extreme poverty are less likely to register their children. This is a result of social marginalization, compounded by factors related to the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, discrimination, and displacement due to the conflicts that affected the region. Despite efforts by many States, the EU and other institutions, thousands of children across Europe remain legally invisible, lacking papers to prove their existence or nationality and are hindered in exercising their rights.<sup>17</sup>



© UNICEF/UN0213863/Filippov

## Ongoing UNHCR and UNICEF efforts

UNHCR and UNICEF are in the frontline of many efforts aimed at addressing childhood statelessness in Europe.<sup>18</sup> In 2014, UNHCR launched the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024.<sup>19</sup> A global High-Level Meeting on Statelessness during UNHCR's Executive Committee meeting in October 2019 will mark the mid-point of the Campaign and assess achievements to date, showcase good practices and

allow for pledges to address statelessness by States. UNHCR counts on European States to play an active role in the lead-up to the High-Level Meeting and to deliver concrete pledges so that the goal of ending statelessness is achieved by 2024.

UNICEF advocates for the right to legal identity for every child and has worked closely with States in the region to pursue the registration of every child at birth.

Both UN agencies support States in reviewing legislation and policies to bring them in line with their international obligations regarding the right of every child to acquire a nationality.

### Western Balkans

Throughout the Western Balkans, UNHCR and UNICEF have contributed to awareness raising campaigns, informing populations on challenges arising from lack of birth registration, and procedures to register births. Partner NGOs have been supported to provide legal counselling and representation to children and their families in cases of statelessness and with birth registration procedures. Rules on school attendance have been simplified and access to education facilitated for some children who lack birth registration.

In December 2016, UNHCR and UNICEF launched the Coalition on Every Child's Right to a Nationality. The Coalition aims to expand and strengthen international co-operation to raise awareness about and combat childhood statelessness, as well as promote the right of every child to acquire a nationality. Through advocacy, communication, cooperation and coordination, the Coalition seeks to:

- Ensure that no child is born stateless;
- Eliminate laws and practices that deny children nationality on discriminatory grounds;
- Remove gender discrimination from nationality laws;
- Improve birth registration to prevent statelessness; and
- Encourage States to accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions.

In the European context, the identification and protection of stateless children is a key area of importance. Thus far, joint UNHCR-UNICEF strategies have been developed in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (UN Security Council Resolution 1244/1999), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, and Serbia.

## Advancing the agenda

However, more can and should be done. With Governments committing through the Sustainable Development Goals to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration as per SDG 16.9, UNHCR and UNICEF call for revitalised efforts to address childhood statelessness in Europe.

## UNICEF and UNHCR call on European states to take the following actions:

### 1. Ensure every stateless refugee or migrant child is properly identified and protected.

Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, Article 1: The term 'stateless person' means a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.

Article 32: The Contracting States shall as far as possible facilitate the assimilation and naturalization of stateless persons. They shall in particular make every effort to expedite naturalization proceedings and to reduce as far as possible the charges and costs of such proceedings

European Convention on Nationality, Article 6(4): Each State Party shall facilitate in its internal law the acquisition of its nationality for the following persons: (...) stateless persons and recognised refugees lawfully and habitually resident on its territory.

- Ensure that potentially stateless children are recorded as such upon arrival and that their possible statelessness is given due consideration within asylum and civil registration procedures while prohibiting the sharing and use of the personal data collected for other purposes<sup>20</sup>;
- Establish a formal statelessness determination procedure in order to properly identify and protect stateless children and enable them to access specific rights and services, learning from countries that have such procedures in place<sup>21</sup>;
- Improve data collection and analysis on statelessness and its impact on children to better shape legislation, policies and practices;
- Review and amend legislation, policies and practices across sectors so that all stateless children in the territory can enjoy their rights and access services as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Enhance the protection of identified stateless children by strengthening resources and skills in the child protection sector, enabling qualified social workers to intervene and support the child from the earliest stage of identification;
- Invest in training of judges and caseworkers involved in statelessness determination, and of law enforcement, immigration, asylum and civil registry officials who work with stateless persons;
- Simplify requirements and procedures for naturalisation for stateless children, and provide legal aid and support to stateless children to realise their right to acquire a nationality as soon as possible; and

- Accede to the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and implement its provisions.<sup>22</sup>

### 2. Adopt safeguards to prevent statelessness at birth.

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 7: The child shall have the right to acquire a nationality [...] in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.

Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness Article 1 (1): A Contracting State shall grant its nationality to a person born in its territory who would otherwise be stateless.

Article 2: A founding found in the territory of a Contracting State shall, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be considered to have been born within that territory of parents possessing the nationality of that State.

European Convention on Nationality, Article 6(1): Each State Party shall provide in its internal law for its nationality to be acquired ex lege by the following persons: foundlings found in its territory who would otherwise be stateless (...) children born on its territory who do not acquire at birth another nationality.

- Accede to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and amend legislation<sup>23</sup> accordingly in order to grant nationality automatically at birth or as soon as possible after birth to children born stateless in the territory; and
- Strengthen the role of European regional bodies and institutions to address childhood statelessness in Europe and abroad.

European Convention on Nationality, Article 23(2): States Parties shall co-operate amongst themselves and with other member States of the Council of Europe within the framework of the appropriate intergovernmental body of the Council of Europe in order to deal with all relevant problems and to promote the progressive development of legal principles and practice concerning nationality and related matters.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Article 21: In all actions relating to children, whether taken by public authorities or private institutions, the child's best interests must be a primary consideration.

Article 24(2): Within the scope of application of the Treaties and without prejudice to any of their specific provisions, any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited.

### 3. Ensure every child is properly registered at birth.

Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 7: The child shall be registered immediately after birth [...] in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 24(2): Every child shall be registered immediately after birth.

- Reach out to stateless, at risk of stateless or marginalised communities through awareness raising campaigns and social work, identify children who are not registered at birth and assist the child and his/her family with the registration procedures;
- Ensure that for every child born on their territory, a birth certificate is issued, regardless of the child's and parents' ethnicity, nationality, documentation or migration status; and
- Improve data collection and analysis on the situation of children not registered at birth and advocate for gaps in birth registration to be closed through legislation, policies and practice.

**The European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe are all crucial players in these joint efforts to address childhood statelessness. They can further strengthen their commitments by:**

- Strengthening the Council of Europe and OSCE's capacity to monitor and report on State's actions in regard to regional commitments and frameworks to address childhood statelessness; and
- Developing an EU strategy to address statelessness, within the European Union and beyond, building upon the full set of EU policy and funding tools, both in EU internal and external action;
- Monitoring the implementation of the European Council conclusions on statelessness by providing a biannual report on progress addressing statelessness;
- Ensuring specialized agencies such as Frontex, EASO and the Fundamental Rights Agency systematically include the identification, recording and protection of stateless children and the prevention of statelessness in their work;
- Supporting, through the wide range of EU funding instruments, the further development and functionality of civil registry systems, including birth registration, to ensure every child is registered at birth;
- Addressing childhood statelessness in bilateral and multilateral discussions with countries of origin, transit and destination as per the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility<sup>24</sup> and its Framework for raising statelessness with third countries<sup>25</sup>;
- Systematically promoting the rights of stateless children and the access to birth registration and civil registration documents in the negotiations with EU accession countries and in relation to countries that have signed EU Association Agreements; and
- Including the needs of stateless children and those at risk of statelessness in ongoing work on Roma integration under the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 and beyond.

## Annex 1

### European State Parties to relevant international and regional instruments as of October 2018

#### Convention

#### State Parties

**Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons**  
28 September 1954

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness**  
30 August 1961

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Convention on the Rights of the Child**  
20 November 1989

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Council of Europe, European Convention on Nationality**  
6 November 1997

Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovak Republic, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine

**Council of Europe, Convention on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to State succession**  
19 May 2006

Austria, Hungary, Luxemburg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Moldova

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, Uprooted; the Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children, September 2016, available at [www.unicef.org/publications/files/Uprooted\\_growing\\_crisis\\_for\\_refugee\\_and\\_migrant\\_children.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Uprooted_growing_crisis_for_refugee_and_migrant_children.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> See also the Joint general comment No. 4 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 23 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on State obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return, 16 November 2017, CMW/C/GC/4-CRC/C/GC/23, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/5a12942a2b.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/5a12942a2b.html).

<sup>3</sup> For more about the definition of a stateless person, statelessness determination procedures and the rights of stateless persons, see UNHCR, Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons, 30 June 2014, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/53b676aa4.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b676aa4.html).

<sup>4</sup> 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. Among them 32 are in Europe.

<sup>5</sup> For more information on safeguards to prevent childhood statelessness under the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, see UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4: Ensuring Every Child's Right to Acquire a Nationality through Articles 1-4 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 21 December 2012, HCR/GS/12/04, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/50d460c72.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/50d460c72.html).

<sup>6</sup> See note 4 above.

<sup>7</sup> Countries and territories in Europe with a statelessness determination procedure include: Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo (UN Security Council Resolution 1244/1999), Latvia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Turkey and the UK. See for more information UNHCR, Good Practices Paper – Action 6: Establishing Statelessness Determination Procedures to Protect Stateless Persons, 11 July 2016, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/57836cff4.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/57836cff4.html).

<sup>8</sup> Worldwide, 25 countries have nationality laws that do not allow women to pass their nationality to their children on the same basis as men. See for more UNHCR, Background Note on Gender Equality, Nationality Laws and Statelessness 2018, 8 March 2018, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/5aa10fd94.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/5aa10fd94.html).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> See for more UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4: Ensuring Every Child's Right to Acquire a Nationality through Articles 1-4 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 21 December 2012, HCR/GS/12/04, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/50d460c72.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/50d460c72.html).

<sup>11</sup> Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Turkey.

<sup>12</sup> See for more about causes of childhood statelessness in Europe: European Network on Statelessness, No Child Should be Stateless, September 2015, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/5729b6d54.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/5729b6d54.html).

<sup>13</sup> Worldwide, 290 million children do not possess a birth certificate, and nearly 230 million children under the age of five have never been registered at birth. The vast majority of unregistered children are born in the South Asian and

sub-Saharan Africa regions and countries dealing with armed conflict or civil war make up the majority of the countries with the lowest birth registration. See UNICEF at: [www.unicef.org/protection/57929\\_58010.html](http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58010.html).

<sup>14</sup> Based on MICS 2011-2014, the percentage of children under the age of 5 whose births are reported as registered may vary among minority ethnic groups, such as Roma. In Serbia, for example, while 99.4 per cent of children under 5 of the national population had their birth registered, among Roma children within the same age group, this percentage was 95.30%. Similarly, in Montenegro, this ratio was 99.5 per cent for national children versus 94.5 per cent for children from Roma communities.

<sup>15</sup> See also Liliانا Keith, Risks of statelessness for children of undocumented parents in Europe, 2017, available at: [www.statelessness.eu/blog/risks-statelessness-children-undocumented-parents-europe](http://www.statelessness.eu/blog/risks-statelessness-children-undocumented-parents-europe).

<sup>16</sup> See also UNHCR, Good Practices Paper - Action 7: Ensuring birth registration for the prevention of statelessness, November 2017, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/5a0ac8f94.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/5a0ac8f94.html).

<sup>17</sup> See also UNHCR, "This is Our Home" Stateless Minorities and their Search for Citizenship, 3 November 2017, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/59e4a6534.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/59e4a6534.html).

<sup>18</sup> Since 1995, the mandate of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has been expanded by the UN General Assembly to include responsibilities related to non-refugee stateless persons and prevention and reduction of statelessness more broadly. These resolutions are universal in scope and do not restrict UNHCR's activities to those states which are party to the statelessness conventions.

<sup>19</sup> The UNHCR Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014–2024 establishes a guiding framework of 10 Actions to be undertaken by States to resolve existing major situations of statelessness, prevent new cases from emerging and better identify and protect stateless populations. Available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/545b47d64.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/545b47d64.html).

<sup>20</sup> See Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration, 16 November 2017, CMW/C/GC/3-CRC/C/GC/22, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/5a1293a24.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/5a1293a24.html).

<sup>21</sup> See for more on statelessness determination procedures and the status of stateless persons: UNHCR, Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons, 30 June 2014, available at: [www.refworld.org/docid/53b676aa4.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b676aa4.html).

<sup>22</sup> See Annex 1 for the State Parties to the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

<sup>23</sup> See Annex 1 for the State Parties to the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

<sup>24</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, 18 November 2011, available at: [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0743&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0743&from=EN).

<sup>25</sup> See Council of the European Union, EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan

in Human Rights and Democracy, 25 June 2012, available at: [www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131181.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131181.pdf).