



What does it mean to be stateless?



European
Network on
Statelessness

! THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN IN EUROPE ARE GROWING UP WITHOUT A NATIONALITY. THIS MEANS THAT MANY OF THEM ARE DENIED IMPORTANT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS THAT WE OFTEN TAKE FOR GRANTED !



HEALTHCARE

Health workers may discriminate against stateless children and deny them access to healthcare due to lack of documents

Stateless families may be reluctant or unable to seek healthcare due to expensive fees or fear that they may be reported to the authorities and deported

Stateless children may only have access to emergency medical treatment

Stateless children can have difficulty seeing paediatricians and accessing vaccinations

Health workers may be required to report stateless children to the authorities



BIRTH REGISTRATION

Some countries make it difficult for parents to register the birth of their children, putting them at risk of statelessness later in their life

Many stateless children are unable to access identity documents such as a passport or an ID card



SOCIAL WELFARE & HOUSING

Stateless children can be prevented from accessing social welfare and services

Stateless children and their families are at risk of forced eviction



THE SHOCKING REALITY IS THAT **MORE THAN HALF THE COUNTRIES IN EUROPE DON'T HAVE ADEQUATE LEGAL SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD STATELESSNESS.**

UNDER THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, **ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO ACQUIRE A NATIONALITY.**



EDUCATION

Stateless children can be prevented from accessing education due to their lack of documents

Sometimes schools will not allow stateless children to sit exams or refuse to issue them formal certificates for completion of studies

Even where access to primary school is possible, access to pre-school and higher education is much less accessible for stateless children



INDEPENDENCE AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

As they progress towards adulthood, stateless children face a lifetime of restrictions on travel and employment opportunities

Stateless adults are often unable to marry and can pass on statelessness to their own children



PROTECTION FROM TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE

It is harder to protect children from trafficking and other forms of abuse if they are stateless and lack identity documents

Stateless children who are unable to prove their age or to complete their education are often more vulnerable to child labour, trafficking, exploitation and early marriage

WE ARE URGING ALL EUROPEAN STATES TO:

- 1 Accede to the relevant UN conventions (1954 & 1961 Conventions)
- 2 Put in place comprehensive safeguards to identify and grant nationality to children born on their territory who would otherwise be stateless
- 3 Ensure access to free and universal birth registration

FIND OUT MORE:

www.statelesskids.eu