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**Statelessness and the Role of National
Human Rights Institutions**

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Statelessness and the role of National Human Rights Institutions

*Laura van Waas and Monica Neal**

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Statelessness is a global human rights problem that affects more than 10 million people today. The very existence of statelessness is at odds with a fundamental human rights norm: the right of everyone to a nationality.¹ But the link between statelessness and human rights goes deeper than this because stateless people are extremely vulnerable to further, cumulative human rights violations. As Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, explains:

Without citizenship, one lacks not only political rights, but often social and economic rights as well. On a symbolic level, citizenship implies being a full member of a national community, and even further, of humanity.²

Indeed, stateless people commonly find it difficult or impossible to access education, healthcare, employment, social security benefits, property rights, civil registration (births, deaths and marriages), identity and travel documents and more. Moreover, statelessness often breeds marginalisation, discrimination, insecurity and an overall sense of hopelessness where it touches peoples' lives.

Despite the significance of statelessness as a human rights issue, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees – whose Office is mandated by the General Assembly to help states to respond to statelessness – recently observed that it is “one of the most forgotten areas of the global human rights agenda”.³ However, over the last few years in particular, there has been a considerable and irrefutable increase in interest in statelessness from a wide range of stakeholders – including intergovernmental organisations, national governments, global and regional human rights supervisory bodies, NGOs, legal practitioners and academics. This is evidenced by, among other things, a dramatic expansion in

* The research on which this report is based was conducted by Monica Neal LLB(Hons, 1st Class)/BCA, under the supervision of Dr Laura van Waas, Senior Researcher and Manager of the Statelessness Programme. This report was drafted jointly by Neal and van Waas. As outlined in the project methodology section, the research was facilitated by and benefited from the expert input of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights.

¹ This is laid down in article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and echoed, in one form or another, in almost every major human rights instrument adopted at global or regional level since 1948.

² Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, *Human Rights Comment on Stateless Children*, 15 January 2013.

³ UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, at a press conference at the close of the December 2011 Ministerial Meeting on refugees and statelessness during which a significant number of states pledged action to address statelessness.

the body of literature on statelessness, a clear increase in attention for statelessness issues in human rights reporting and monitoring,⁴ the emergence of the first significant international jurisprudence regarding the right to a nationality,⁵ and a rapid up-take in the number of states parties to the two core United Nations conventions concerning statelessness.⁶ It can therefore be questioned whether the issue of statelessness is actually quite as “forgotten” as it undoubtedly was in the past.

This study seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the current engagement of human rights actors on statelessness. More specifically, it explores the following question:

To what extent are National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) engaged in the issue of statelessness and what does this engagement consist of?

The timeframe and resources for the compilation of the present report were limited, such that it should be understood as a first glimpse only at the role of NHRIs in statelessness issues and by no means as an exhaustive study. Nevertheless, it provides a useful insight into the ways in which the broad human rights mandates of NHRIs have led them to become involved, directly or indirectly, in addressing the problem of statelessness. The report identifies areas of common interest in the work of NHRIs on statelessness and presents a number of examples of concrete activities undertaken by NHRIs in this area to date. With a view to encouraging and facilitating more effective engagement by NHRIs on statelessness, the report also reflects on opportunities for supporting and perhaps expanding the role of NHRIs in tackling statelessness.

The report begins with a brief outline of the research methodology employed for this study, which included desk research, as well as the development and circulation of a survey questionnaire to collect data directly from NHRIs around the world. This is followed by a section in which the data compiled is analysed and some common trends in the survey responses are identified, indicating where NHRIs in different countries have demonstrated a shared interest in or approach to statelessness. Thereafter, a summary is provided of the work of individual NHRIs on statelessness – taken also, largely, from the survey responses but supplemented by a few additional examples of NHRI engagement on statelessness which came to light through a broader desk review. Finally, the report reflects on these various preliminary findings on the role of NHRIs in addressing statelessness and makes some suggestions as to how this engagement could be further encouraged and supported.

⁴ For instance, in the reporting to and comments by the UN treaty bodies, such as the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child; but also within the Universal Periodic Review process.

⁵ Including Inter-American Court of Human Rights, *Yean and Bosico v. Dominican Republic*, 2005; African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, *Nubian Minors v. Kenya*, 2010; and European Court of Human Rights, *Genovese v. Malta*, 2011.

⁶ These are the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

1 Research methodology

The Statelessness Programme at Tilburg Law School is a specialised centre of expertise dedicated to research, training and outreach on statelessness. Over the past few years, in the course of its work and through discussions with its partners, the Statelessness Programme has become aware of several examples of NHRI action on statelessness. However, it was unclear whether these were isolated examples or indicative of a wider, structural engagement of NHRIs on this issue. As such, following discussions with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (hereinafter the Netherlands NHRI) on this matter in early 2013, the role of NHRIs in tackling statelessness was identified as an area in which there is a significant information gap. To start to fill this knowledge gap, the Statelessness Programme embarked on a small mapping study, in close cooperation with the Netherlands NHRI, which offered technical support and facilitated communication with other NHRIs through its network.

A survey questionnaire was developed, posing questions on NHRIs direct and indirect involvement in statelessness issues. The survey was divided into five sections:

1. Experience with statelessness;
2. Preventing statelessness;
3. Protecting the rights of stateless people;
4. Co-operation and co-ordination;
5. Other issues.⁷

The Netherlands NHRI then distributed this questionnaire worldwide, using its network contacts, while the responses were collected and analysed by the Statelessness Programme.

To encourage survey response, blog posts about the project were published on the Statelessness Programme's website. The Statelessness Programme then followed up, either directly or through its partners, with a number of NHRIs to draw their attention to the survey exercise and encourage them to participate. Various staff members, in different departments of the Netherlands NHRI, were also interviewed on the subject matter of statelessness to get an insight into the level of knowledge on the subject of statelessness at this NHRI (and therefore what might be expected elsewhere). The interviews also brought to light the networking opportunities that exist between NHRIs, and how the Netherlands NHRI could potentially make use of the outcome of the survey. From discussions with the Netherlands NHRI, it became apparent that there was a particular interest in gaining an insight into what other NHRIs in Europe were doing in terms of a response to statelessness, since this is where there might be the most immediate opportunities for information exchange and collaboration. As such, particular attention was paid to following up with European NHRIs to encourage them to respond to

⁷ The full survey instrument can be found in Annex 1.

the survey. In addition to NHRIs in Europe, the Statelessness Programme directed its follow-up efforts towards a list of NHRIs identified as ‘priorities’ or of greatest interest, based on a series of factors regarding the situation of statelessness within the respective countries.⁸

In parallel to the survey exercise, the Statelessness Programme undertook a brief desk review to see whether information on NHRI engagement on statelessness could be gleaned from existing reports. This research revealed some interesting examples of work on statelessness carried out by NHRIs that had not responded to the survey – these have been integrated, where relevant, in this report.

Within the timeframe set for this initial mapping exercise, June-August 2013, a total of 10 survey responses were received: from the NHRIs of the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Croatia, Denmark, Sweden, Georgia, Nepal, Thailand and Togo. The NHRI in Germany responded to the circulation of the questionnaire by simply stating that it had nothing to report in terms of engagement on statelessness. A number of other NHRIs informed the Statelessness Programme of their intention to complete the survey, but had not yet submitted their response at the time of writing of this report.⁹ While it is difficult to estimate the reasons for the low survey response rate, this may have been influenced by factors such as the short timeframe for response, the period of the research (during months which, for many NHRIs, likely coincided with staff members’ summer holidays) and the availability of the questionnaire in the English language only. Nevertheless, it is conceivable that, given the historic neglect for the issue of statelessness among human rights stakeholders, NHRIs may not have sufficient familiarity with the phenomenon to see how the questions relate to their work, may not have dedicated staff who could respond to the questions or may not prioritise participation in this survey (especially where resources are already tight). In the final section of this report, which considers how the data gathered to date may be used to inform further work, some suggestions are made with regard to follow-up research to supplement the initial survey findings.

2 Analysis of NHRIs action on statelessness

This section of the report offers a comparative, largely statistical analysis of the survey responses received from NHRIs, supplemented by specific data from individual survey answers and some

⁸ This list was broadly based on five criteria:

1. Having a large statelessness population
2. Nationality laws that discriminate based on gender
3. The country’s position in relation to the statelessness conventions
4. Recent major reform of nationality laws affecting stateless populations or the risk of statelessness in the country
5. Other – including countries that had initially expressed interest in the survey, and countries where issues relating to statelessness were known to exist or to have previously existed.

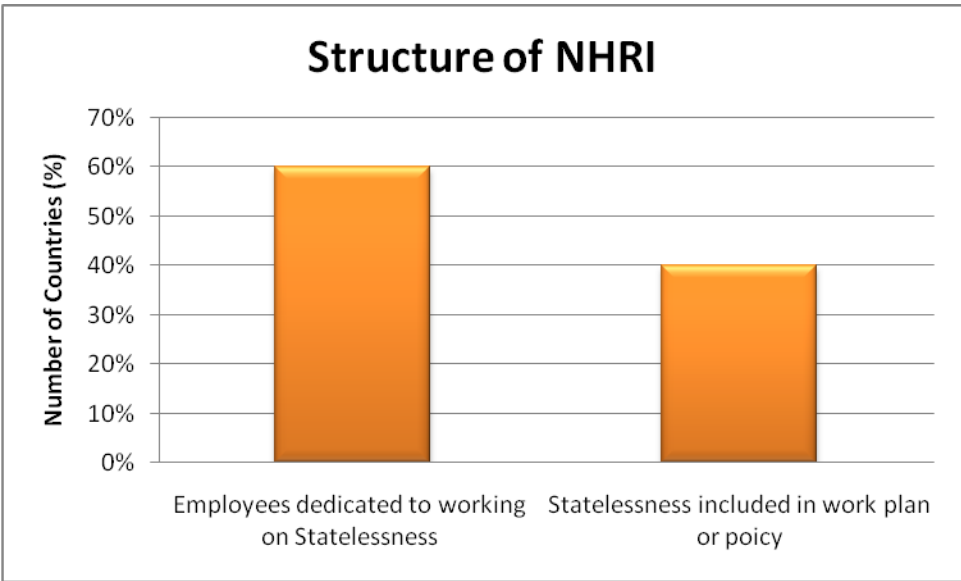
The decision on priority countries was then made by balancing and weighing the aforementioned criteria. These decisions led to the creation of a list of around 28 ‘priority’ countries. These countries were then individually contacted and informed that research by the Statelessness Programme had suggested that the NHRI in the particular country may be interested in learning more about statelessness and the role of NHRIs. The countries contacted were requested to send their survey responses at the earliest convenience.

⁹ This report was last updated on 25 October 2013.

information uncovered through the desk review. It is organised thematically and a number of simple graphs are used to help to illuminate the main findings. Note that this analysis is indicative only – the low response rate to the survey and exploratory desk review mean that it is not possible to paint a comprehensive picture of the engagement of NHRIs on the basis of the research undertaken to date.

As can be seen in figure 1, 60% of survey respondents had employees dedicated to working on the issue of statelessness, despite only 40% of NHRIs including statelessness in their work plan or policy. All survey respondents who included statelessness in their work plan or policy considered to statelessness to be an area of concern for their NHRI. Furthermore all survey respondents with employees dedicated to working on statelessness were interested in developing more expertise on statelessness in the future. These results suggest that NHRIs could benefit from networks being established to share information and expertise on the issue of statelessness. Such networks may not be too difficult to establish if the result of this study, which suggests that a high number of NHRIs have employees dedicated to working on the issue of statelessness, reflects the general practice of NHRIs.

Figure 1.

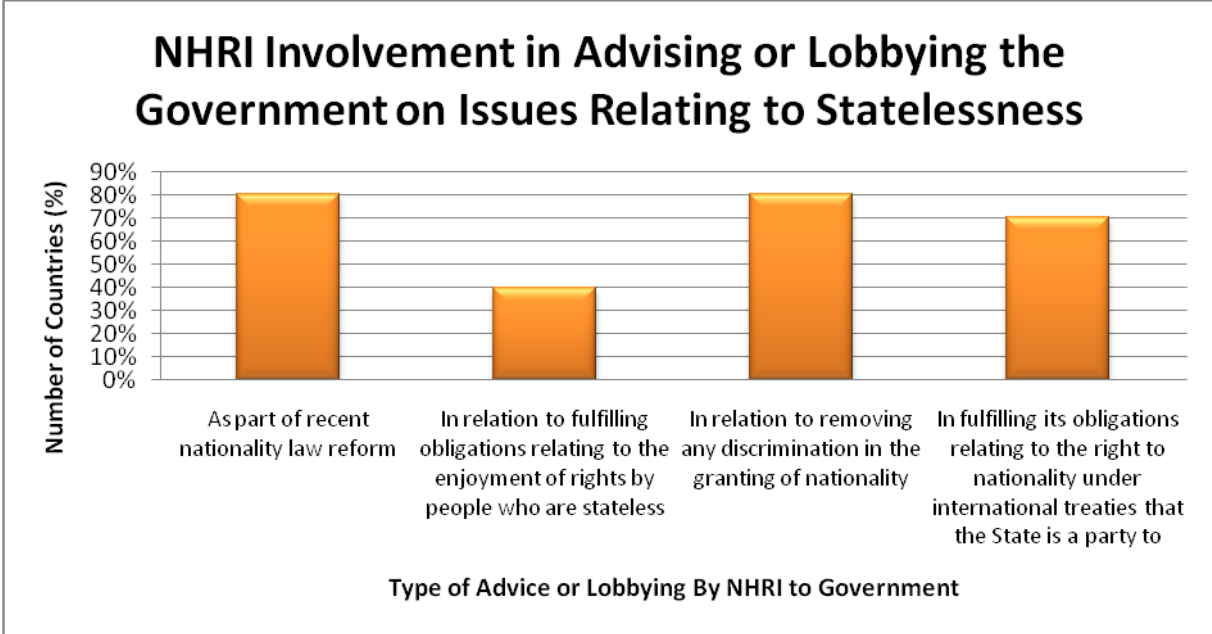


Another prevalent trend in the results from the study is that 80% of survey respondents had either lobbied or advised the government on issues relating to statelessness. Only Georgia and Sweden did not report having undertaken any such activities to date – although Georgia did indicate having used the avenue of its annual parliamentary report in 2011 to outline the importance of birth registration.¹⁰As can be seen from figure 2, the two largest areas in which NHRIs advised/lobbied governments was as part of recent nationality reform, and in relation to removing discrimination in the granting of nationality. These are particularly encouraging results as they reveal that NHRIs are

¹⁰ Birth registration contributes to the prevention of statelessness by documenting a person’s links to the state, through birthplace and parentage, which are important to establishing his / her position under its nationality law.

actively advising governments where legislation raises issues relating to statelessness. However, given that those respondents who had advised governments on nationality law reform where the same respondents who had advised/lobbied governments in relation to removing discrimination in the granting of nationality law, it is likely that such advice/lobbying occurred in both cases in relation to the same proposed nationality legislation. For instance, the Togolese NHRI reported providing advice to the government in the context of the country’s 2010 nationality law reform, including by lobbying for the removal of gender discrimination from the law. In contrast, only 40% of survey respondents had advised/lobbied governments on issues relating to the enjoyment of rights by stateless people. In the case of Denmark, for example, this lobbying centred on the need to correctly identify stateless immigrants as such in the country’s registration system in order to ensure access to rights, such as an alien’s passport for stateless people. This led to the dissemination, by the Danish Immigration Service, of information regarding the possibility for stateless people to seek a correction of their personal data to include their registration as “stateless”.

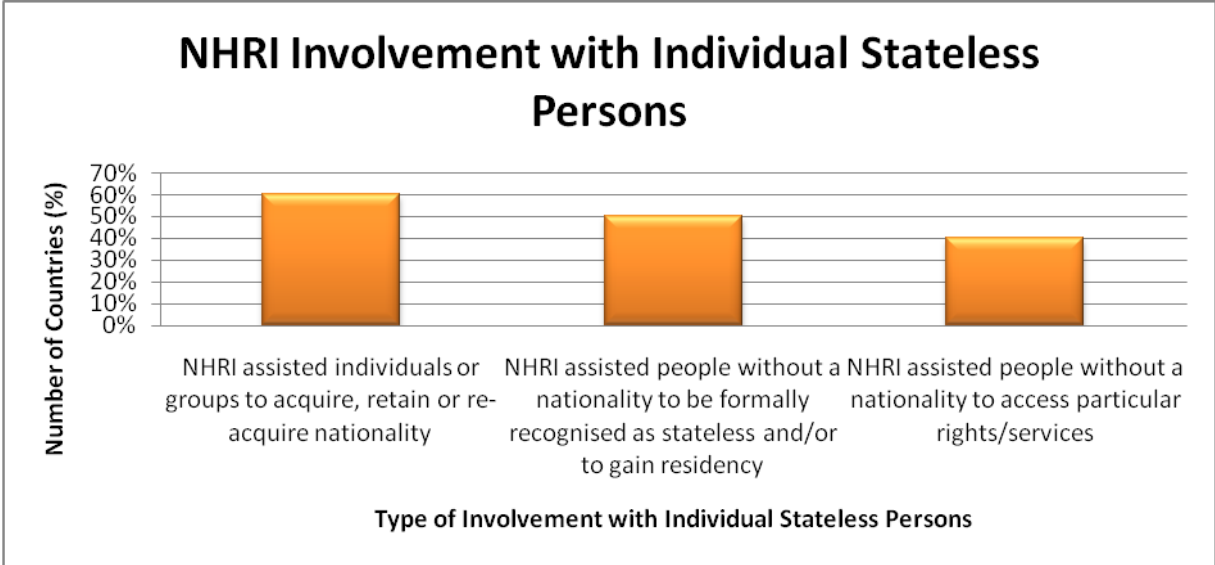
Figure 2.



The survey data does not elucidate why there is less engagement in lobbying for the protection of stateless people than in relation to nationality policy. One explanation may be simple opportunism – i.e. the NHRIs are more reactive than proactive in this area and an opportunity has arisen around nationality law reform (which is a relatively common area of legal reform), while the respective governments have not been engaged in the development of protection frameworks for stateless people (an area which does generally lag significantly behind in terms of law and policy making). It would be of interest to explore more closely how NHRIs have become involved in advising/lobbying on laws and policies relating to statelessness, as well as undertaking activities that would increase NHRIs capacity to identify and initiate opportunities for lobbying/advising governments.

One result of the survey which is difficult to interpret relates to NHRI involvement with individual stateless persons. As depicted in figure 3 the survey results suggest that 60% of survey respondents had assisted individuals or groups to retain or re-acquire nationality, while 50% had assisted people without a nationality to be formally recognised as stateless and/or to gain residence. Less than half of the respondents reported engaging in individual casework with a view to assisting a stateless person to access fundamental rights or services. However, many NHRIs do not have the mandate to assist individuals, and the extent of the NHRI’s mandate was not a question in the survey. Consequently, the results displayed in figure 3 may be more reflective of the percentage of NHRIs that have a mandate to assist individual stateless persons.

Figure 3.

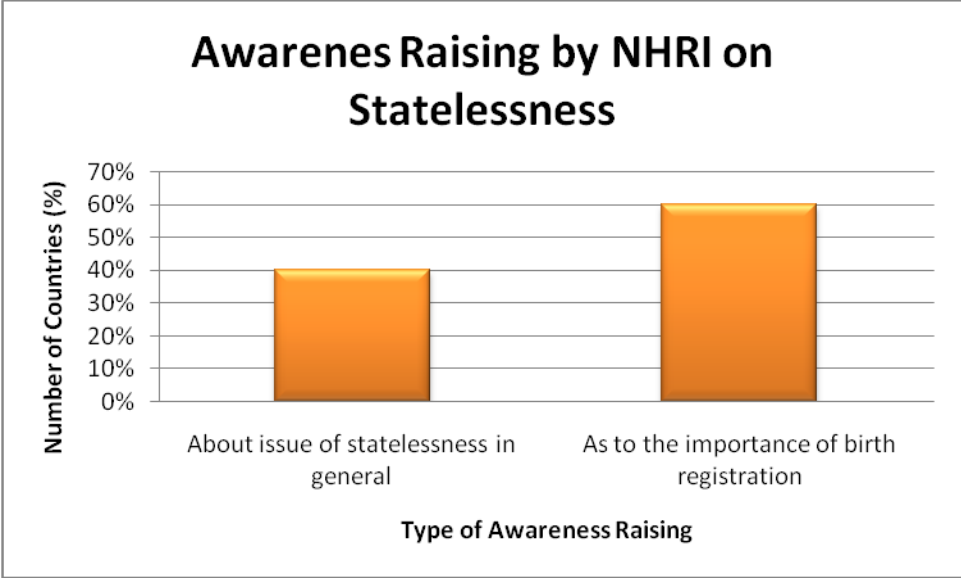


Where respondents offered examples of individual casework, it becomes apparent that this can be an effective means of engagement. For example, Croatia’s NHRI has assisted around 200 people who were stateless or at risk of statelessness to regulate their residence or confirm their nationality. Georgia provided details of a case in which the NHRI was successful in supporting a stateless person to assert his right to a state pension. Examples of NHRI engagement in individual cases that were identified through the desk review also confirm that there may be significant scope for NHRIs which do have the necessary mandate to respond to statelessness through such work. For instance, Qatar’s NHRI indicated in its annual report that it has received dozens of complaints regarding access to nationality, while Thailand’s National Human Rights Commission has dealt with petitions regarding the legal status and enjoyment of rights by stateless people.

As can be seen in figure 4, 40% of survey respondents had been involved in general awareness raising on the issue of statelessness and 60% had been involved in awareness raising as to the importance of

birth registration. The NHRI in Belgium, for instance, referenced a number of examples of resources it had developed – along with partners – and used in awareness raising. These are listed in Annex 2 of this report.

Figure 4.



That many NHRIs have yet to engage in general awareness raising on statelessness conducted may be explained by financial constraints commonly facing NHRIs. However, it may also relate to limited knowledge as to how to conduct such campaigns, and what kind of information should be distributed. This suggestion is supported by the result that 75% of respondents were interested in developing further expertise or activities on statelessness in the future. Where lack of expertise in the area of general awareness raising on the issue of statelessness acts as a barrier to such campaigns, there is an opportunity for this barrier to be overcome through networking and co-operation between NHRIs on the issue of statelessness. It might even be possible to consider the development of a set of basic sample materials that set out the nexus between statelessness and human rights, which could be used as a basis for building awareness activities by NHRIs around the world. An obvious potential partner for such an initiative would be the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which has the necessary mandate and expertise, and with whom 50% of NHRI respondents have explicitly indicated that they already have an established working relationship with regard to statelessness activities.

3 Individual NHRI engagement on statelessness

The following sections offer a country-by-country summary of the NHRI survey responses regarding their engagement on statelessness, as well as information on a selection of other countries which came

to light during the desk review. While, again, this should not be seen as an exhaustive overview of NHRI engagement in this field, these short country reports do give some insight into the type of action that is currently or has recently been taken on the subject of statelessness by these NHRIs.

Belgium¹¹

The Belgium NHRI – The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism – was one of the first countries to respond to the survey sent out as part of this study. The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism has recently been active in the area of statelessness. In September 2012, in partnership with the UNHCR, it finalised and published a report on ‘Mapping of Statelessness in Belgium’.¹² Furthermore, in its annual report for 2012, the Centre for Equal Opportunity and Opposition to Racism announced that its ‘Annual Report on Migration’ would present analyses of “migratory flows and migration policies, and its recommendations”,¹³ with special regard to several areas including a focus on statelessness.¹⁴

In responding to the survey the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism stated that the institution had come across the problem of statelessness or come into contact with stateless people as part of its mandate under Belgium law which included work on “migration, asylum, detention, civil registration”.¹⁵ Knowledge as to how to deal with the issue of statelessness was initially gained through “learning by doing”,¹⁶ and then followed by the institution’s decision to learn more about the issue. To this end the institution developed, either alone or in cooperation, specific resources to deal with the issue.

The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism advised the Belgian government during its recent amendment of the Belgian Nationality Code. This advice included information relating to the prevention of discrimination in granting nationality. It further contained advice on ensuring that safeguards against statelessness were in place.

Croatia¹⁷

Neither the 2011 nor 2012 Annual Report of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia directly addressed the issue of statelessness. However, the Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia has been

¹¹ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Belgium NHRI – The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism.

¹² The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism “The Centre in 2012 – Annual Activity and Management Report”, at 31.

¹³ *Ibid*, at 29.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, at 29.

¹⁵ Survey Response – The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism.

¹⁶ *Ibid*.

¹⁷ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Croatian NHRI – The Ombudsman of the Republic of Croatia.

both directly involved in the issue of statelessness through its complaint process, and indirectly through its involvement in citizenship law reform affecting stateless persons.

In 2011 there was an amendment to Croatian citizenship law. The Ombudsman was “not directly involved in the nationality reform although he indicated in his reports that granting a [sic] Croatian citizenship should not be discriminatory against non-Croats.”¹⁸ The Office of the Ombudsman of Croatia has previously come across the issue of statelessness as part of their work as an NHRI. Statelessness is considered as a big area of concern, due to the fact that statelessness was one of the consequences of the dissolution of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

*Denmark*¹⁹

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) status reports, of 2012 and 2013, dealt specifically with the issue of statelessness in the context of concerns relating to Danish citizenship laws.²⁰ The report included recommendations to the Danish government that citizenship law is amended to automatically grant citizenship to stateless children born on Danish territory.²¹ Further recommendations on citizenship law included that conditions for stateless people born in Denmark are amended to require habitual as opposed to legal residence in Denmark.²² Such recommendations were recognised as being in accordance with Denmark’s commitments under the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.²³ The report also voiced concern at the difficulty stateless people currently face in gaining Danish citizenship, in view of the fact that denial of access to citizenship prevents stateless people integrating fully in Denmark.²⁴ Consequently the report recommended legislative amendments that would soften the knowledge and language requirements for gaining citizenship, which could currently exclude stateless people from Danish citizenship. Moreover, it is recommended to facilitate the naturalisation of stateless persons by providing for dispensation from other requirements than the residence requirement.

Prior to 2011, Danish law failed to comply with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. During the process of amendment, that would bring Danish law into compliance with the Convention, the DIHR became aware that many stateless people had been incorrectly registered as foreign nationals. Consequently the DIHR contacted the Danish Immigration Service with a view to improving the identification of statelessness. Cooperation between the two institutions resulted in

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Danish NHRI – Danish Institute for Human Rights.

²⁰ See, for instance, the Danish Institute for Human Rights “Status – May 2012 A Summary” (2012) <http://www.humanrights.dk/files/pdf/Publikationer/Status/eng/Status2012_UK_summery.pdf>, at 32.

²¹ Ibid, at 33.

²² Ibid, at 33.

²³ Ibid, at 32.

²⁴ Ibid, at 33.

renewed efforts to ensure that stateless people are correctly identified and registered as such, summarised as:²⁵

Stateless persons were informed about the possibility for correction of wrongfully registered personal data (including nationality/statelessness status), and a special form containing information on the right of stateless persons to an alien's passport was drawn up. Simultaneously, the Immigration Service disseminated information on statelessness to relevant authorities.

The effectiveness of this new procedure is evident in the statistics, with an increased number of foreigners in the country now correctly registered as stateless.

*Georgia*²⁶

While the Public Defender of Georgia (PDO) was not involved in the 2012 legislative amendments on the Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless persons, the PDO has been involved in other legislative amendments involving statelessness. In its 2011 Annual Report the issue of statelessness arose in the context of legislative amendment on the subject of Internally Displaced Persons.²⁷ The PDO expressed concerns surrounding the legislative amendments to the law on Internally Displaced Persons, which included amending the definition of an Internally Displaced Person to “a person displaced from the occupied territory of Georgia is a citizen of Georgia, or a stateless person permanently residing in Georgia...”²⁸ The PDO is concerned at the imposition of limitations as to who constitutes Internally Displaced Persons following definitional changes within the legislation. The issue of statelessness also arose within the context of the Georgia's legislation ‘On Refugee and Humanitarian Status’. A bill that was introduced in 2008 is expected by the PDO, to amend many of the deficiencies within the current law, which include a lack of compliance with international standards.²⁹ Statelessness is relevant to this issue as it is currently included in the definition of persons who constitute refugees. This definition is currently considered to fail to comply with international standards concerning the definition of a refugee.

While statelessness is not considered to be a serious problem in Georgia, the PDO advocates individual statelessness cases, assisting stateless people on issues including access to social benefits, such as state pensions. For instance, in 2013 the PDO successfully assisted stateless claimant A.T. in accessing his state pension. This assistance was provided by contacting the relevant ministry on A.T.'s

²⁵ Survey Response – Danish Institute for Human Rights.

²⁶ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Georgian NHRI – Public Defender of Georgia.

²⁷ The Public Defender of Georgia “2011 Annual Report of the Public Defender of Georgia” <<http://ombudsman.ge/files/downloads/en/hcqqkqyhblwldxcayqiwg.pdf>>, at 141.

²⁸ *Ibid*, at 141.

²⁹ *Ibid*, at 159.

behalf and requesting that compensation of the unpaid pension be paid to A.T. In addition to advocating in individual cases, the PDO has sought to raise awareness on the importance of birth registration, which is an important tool in combating statelessness. The PDO believes that birth registration issues “mainly relate to Roma issues”.³⁰ In tackling the problem of failing to complete birth registration, the PDO has “utilized different mechanisms for raising awareness as to the importance of birth registration.”³¹ The PDO is among those NHRIs which indicated a keen interest in opportunities to receive technical support and engage in information exchange in order to “broaden its competence and increase awareness of this phenomenon”.

Kenya

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) identifies stateless persons as a special group in need of protection and rights promotion, due to their situation as being amongst the most vulnerable members of society.³² In July 2010 the KNCHR, in partnership with the UNHCR, produced a report titled “Out of the Shadows: Towards Ensuring the Rights of Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness in Kenya”.³³ This was not the first study conducted on statelessness by the KNCHR, as in 2008 the KNCHR and UNHCR had jointly completed a study on statelessness in Kenya titled “An Identity Crisis: A Study on the Issuance of the National Identity Cards in Kenya (2008)”.³⁴ The July 2010 study researched the issue of statelessness in Kenya, and made a number of key findings and recommendations for legislative and administrative amendments as a result.³⁵ Broadly the study found that persons falling within its scope have problems accessing the full range of human rights in the areas: work, free movement, education and health.³⁶

In addition to carrying out specific studies on statelessness, the KNCHR conducts general research on statelessness, which it uses with the “objective of informing the Commission’s interventions in relation to policy, law making and implementation.”³⁷ The KNCHR also ensures governmental compliance with international human rights instruments relating to statelessness.³⁸ The KNCHR also follows legislative developments that could impact, or touch on the issue of statelessness.³⁹

³⁰ Survey Response - Public Defender of Georgia.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Kenya National Commission on Human Rights “Annual Report for the 2010/2011 Financial Year”

<<http://www.knchr.org/Portals/0/AnnualReports/Annual%20Report%202010%20to%202011.pdf>>, at xiii.

³³ Kenya National Commission on Human Rights in Partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees” (July 2010).

³⁴ Kenya National Commission on Human Rights “Annual Report for the 2010/2011 Financial Year”, above n 32, at 27.

³⁵ Kenya National Commission on Human Rights in Partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees”, above n 33, at 1.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, at 1.

³⁷ Kenya National Commission on Human Rights “Annual Report for the 2010/2011 Financial Year”, above n 32, at 27.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, at 27.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, at 28.

*Luxembourg*⁴⁰

The mandate of the Luxembourg Human Rights Commission (CCDH) does not extend to receiving individual complainants, whether these are regarding statelessness or other human rights concerns. However, despite its limited ability to work on the issue due to resource constraints, the CCDH has advised the government on statelessness. In a recent opinion on the draft nationality law, the CCDH encouraged the government to ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and furthermore to ensure children born on a vessel under the Luxembourgish flag are treated on an equal foot with children born on Luxembourgish territory.⁴¹ Statelessness is seen by the CCDH as an issue which particularly arises in the migration context – a viewpoint which is shared with a number of other European NHRIs.

Malaysia

In the 2012 Annual Report the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia focussed on statelessness in the context of protecting the rights of vulnerable children.⁴² As part of preparation for the 2012 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Report to the United Nations, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia collected information and interviewed school children on specific human rights issues including statelessness.⁴³ The resulting report identified stateless children as one of the “ongoing issues of concern to the Commission.”⁴⁴ The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia concluded that there was a lack of widespread involvement across governmental departments on CRC related issues.

*Nepal*⁴⁵

Although statelessness is not a priority area of engagement for the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal (NHRCN), the issue has featured in some of its work. In particular, in the course of its regular human rights monitoring tasks, some monitoring missions have identified people who had difficulty receiving citizenship documentation or being recognised as nationals. In the same human rights monitoring work, the NHRCN has paid attention to child rights, including through sharing information about the importance of birth registration. The NHRCN has reviewed and advised on the content of a draft nationality amendment bill, making recommendations to the government to ensure that the law is in line with human rights standards. Also, in cooperation with the National Dalit

⁴⁰ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Luxembourg NHRI – Luxembourg Human Rights Commission.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Human Rights Commission of Malaysia “2012 Annual Report” <<http://www.suhakam.org.my/documents/10124/a8acad52-2472-4d8e-9282-43b041c402ec>>, at 17

⁴³ Ibid, at 17

⁴⁴ Ibid, at 79.

⁴⁵ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Nepal NHRI – the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal.

Commission and National Women's Commission,⁴⁶ the NHRCN has submitted information to the UN Universal Periodic Review process, including comments on Nepal's nationality policy. For the NHRCN, migration is a priority concern and there is a realisation that problems surrounding nationality may arise in this context and need to be addressed. The NHRCN already collaborates with other Asian NHRIs on the rights of migrants – including with an international conference on this issue in 2012 – and this may provide an avenue for information exchange on nationality and statelessness.

*The Netherlands*⁴⁷

Statelessness is considered a serious problem by the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (NIHR), which has encountered the problem of statelessness within the context of migration, asylum, and the detention of irregular migrants. In 2012 the NIHR provided advice to parliament on a proposed bill to alter the Dutch nationality law, which would have increased the number of requirements for access to naturalisation. While statelessness does not form part of the NIHR's work plan, there are a number of activities currently in development regarding statelessness. These include a seminar which will be co-convened by the NIHR and UNHCR in late 2013 to discuss the importance of specific statelessness determination procedures (currently lacking in the Netherlands), as well as setting up a European network among European National Human Rights Institutes.

Qatar

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) of Qatar has the mandate to investigate individual claims of human rights violations within Qatar, attempt to gain redress for the complainants, and report on claims received. This NHRC is known, through information provided in its annual reports, to have touched on the issue of nationality and statelessness.⁴⁸ For example, over the years, the NHRC has received complaints relating to restrictive access to citizenship or requesting reinstatement of citizenship. In 2008, for instance, there were 108 such complaints and a "collective file" was established, with the NHRC addressing the Interior Minister with regards to the question of restoration of citizenship. The most recently available NHRC report shows that this issue is still ongoing, with 22 complaints lodged regarding recovery of citizenship.

The Annual reports do not identify statelessness, as such, as a significant issue for Qatar: the word statelessness appears in only one of the Annual reports from 2006-2011, despite the presence of a considerable stateless population in the country. Indirectly, however, the NHRC has addressed the

⁴⁶ Note that the Nepal National Women's Commission also submitted information in response to the survey questionnaire on NHRI engagement in the field of statelessness. It has included the issue of citizenship within its work on women's rights and gender equality and has pursued numerous activities in this context, including some individual casework, lobbying in relation to law reform, reporting to the UN CEDAW committee and awareness raising.

⁴⁷ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Netherlands NHRI – Netherlands Institute of Human Rights.

⁴⁸ The information provided in this section is taken from the Qatar NHRC annual reports of 2006 – 2011, available for download on its website at: <http://www.nhrc-qa.org/en/>.

issue. For instance, the 2006 annual report observes that stateless people within Qatar lack access to a Qatari national identity card despite their long-term residence in the country. The report makes further mention of the stripping of nationality of Yemeni-born naturalised Qataris. In response to these situations, the NHRC expressed its concern, and declared its intention to continue monitoring the situation. Nevertheless, such identification of issues linked to statelessness has not translated into the NHRC viewing statelessness as an area of grave concern. Statelessness is not included in the NHRC's category of "Most Deserving", which identifies "marginalized or vulnerable groups in Qatar who need special rights' protections".⁴⁹ The NHRC has taken a more active interest in the question of gender discrimination in the nationality law (Qatari women cannot transmit their nationality to their children) and this issue features more prominently in the annual reports under the broader umbrella of securing women's and children's rights.

*Sweden*⁵⁰

The Swedish NHRI, the Ombudsman, has the primary task of ensuring compliance with the Discrimination Act. Since statelessness is not "directly a discrimination ground",⁵¹ the Ombudsman does not actively work on the issue, or take complaints on the basis of statelessness. While statelessness complaints are considered to be few, the Ombudsman considers that they could fall within the scope of its activities where a complaint is based on ethnic discrimination. However, in this situation, the case would turn on ethnic discrimination as being irrespective of the citizenship, or lack thereof, held by the complainant.

*Thailand*⁵²

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) views the issue of statelessness as a major human rights concern in the country, noting that statelessness arises in both the migration context and in the case of members of indigenous groups in Thailand. As such, statelessness is one of the areas of concern for the NHRCT. The issue is addressed mainly through the work of the NHRCT Sub-Commission on the Status of Stateless Persons, Displaced Thais, Asylum Seekers and Indigenous Peoples, as well as the NHRCT Sub-Commission on Civil and Political Rights. Both Sub-Commissions include experts on various aspects of the statelessness problem in Thailand and include statelessness activities in their work-plans.

There are numerous concrete examples of the NHRCT's engagement on statelessness in Thailand. These include lobbying, individual casework and awareness raising activities. The NHRCT and

⁴⁹ Qatar doc.

⁵⁰ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Swedish NHRI – The Ombudsman.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Thailand NHRI – the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand.

UNHCR jointly published a handbook outlining procedures for the (re)acquisition of Thai nationality in accordance with a 2008 amendment to the nationality law which provides great scope for the resolution of long-standing cases of statelessness in the country (where currently over half a million people are still stateless).⁵³ The NHRCT also supported advocacy by a community known as the ‘displaced Thais’ for further legislative reform that would allow this group to (re)acquire Thai nationality. After this amendment was successfully passed in January 2012, the NHRCT followed up by organising a seminar to discuss its implementation and made recommendations to the government regarding the expediting of procedures. In the same year, the NHRCT submitted information to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) regarding the human rights situation of stateless people in Thailand and measures for the prevention of statelessness. The NHRCT has also investigated individual complaints on human rights violations of stateless people living in Thailand and made recommendations to the government in how to address these situations. This has included, for instance, an investigation into the detention conditions of stateless migrants, after receiving information on the deaths of two Rohingya detainees in 2009. In view of the regional dimension of the issue of stateless migrants, the NHRCT has also taken an active interest in regional processes for addressing statelessness. For instance, it cooperated with UNHCR’s regional office in 2010 to co-host an expert seminar on statelessness in South East Asia, with a view to sharing good practices in states’ responses to statelessness.

*Togo*⁵⁴

The Commission Nationale de Droits de l’Homme (CNDH) of Togo has not encountered the problem of statelessness to date. Statelessness falls within the section of the CNDH that protects vulnerable groups. While statelessness is not an area of specific concern for the CNDH, the institution is interested in developing further expertise on the issue, as despite being unaware of the size of the problem of statelessness within Togo, they are sure it exists.

By law the government of Togo is required to seek the opinion of CNDH on legislation. The CNDH has provided advice to the government on proposed nationality law reform: in 2010 Togo’s nationality law was reformed, with the CNDH playing a key role. The CNDH provided advice on the reforms that related preventing discrimination in the granting of nationality, including gender discrimination where the mother is Togolese.

⁵³ See the news item of 6 June 2012 on the website of the Office of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand at: http://www.nhrc.or.th/2012/wb/en/news_detail.php?nid=506&parent_id=1&type=highlight.

⁵⁴ Except where otherwise stated, all information in this section was sourced from the survey response from the Togo NHRI – Commission Nationale de Droits de l’Homme.

4 Reflections on NHRIs role in addressing statelessness

The foregoing sections demonstrate, on the basis of the survey responses and some supplementary desk research, how statelessness can – and does already – feature within the work of NHRIs. This should not be mistaken for an exhaustive overview of NHRI engagement on statelessness. There are numerous other recent examples which have come to the attention of the Statelessness Programme. These include:

- The joint publication by the Kazakhstan Commission on Human Rights and UNHCR of a special report on “The situation concerning the rights of oralmans, stateless persons and refugees in Kazakhstan”, which recommended, for instance, that the state accede to both of the UN statelessness conventions;⁵⁵
- The involvement of the NHRI in Sri Lanka in the development and dissemination, in partnership with UNHCR and others, of information brochures on citizenship procedures for stateless refugee returnees;
- The partnership formed between the NHRI of Sierra Leone and a local university to implement a small awareness-raising project on statelessness in 2011, with a series of programmes on local radio in which listeners could also phone in with their questions.

There are also examples of NHRIs playing a part in networking and building regional engagement on the issue of statelessness, including by convening meetings to discuss common concerns and by facilitating the sharing of good practices. For instance, Thailand’s NHRI cooperating with UNHCR to convene a Regional Expert Roundtable on Good Practices for the Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and the Protection of Stateless Persons in South East Asia in 2010. A number of representatives from other NHRIs in the South East Asia region also participated in this expert meeting.⁵⁶

An entirely NHRI-led regional process during which statelessness featured as a prominent item on the agenda is the sixth conference of African National Human Rights Institutions, held in Kigali in 2007. It focused on the theme of “The Role of NHRIs in the protection of Refugees, IDPs and Stateless Persons” and led to the adoption of the “Kigali Declaration”, which includes some specific resolutions on addressing statelessness, as follows:

⁵⁵ See the news item of 3 July 2012 on the website of UNHCR, linking to further details of the report, at: <http://www.unhcr.kz/eng/news-of-the-region/news/1866/>

⁵⁶ The report of this meeting can be found online at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4d6e0a792.html>.

With regards to Stateless persons the conference resolves:

- *To elaborate mechanisms to identify all stateless persons in order understand statelessness on the continent,*
- *To assess the problems arising from statelessness,*
- *To evaluate and review existing legislations on citizenship and nationality and ensure that they do not create situations that could lead to statelessness,*
- *To urge their governments to establish efficient registration mechanisms,*
- *To adopt measures that shall eliminate statelessness,*
- *To encourage and strengthen regional and international cooperation to be able to deal with the situation of statelessness.⁵⁷*

This demonstrates the potential for NHRIs to cooperate to establish a joint, regional or sub-regional agenda on statelessness, which could subsequently be pursued by national level engagement and supported by a further sharing of information and experiences.

The overall conclusion that must be drawn on the basis of this short mapping exercise is that NHRIs can play a role in addressing statelessness through their broad human rights mandate – whether that be through individual casework, awareness raising, lobbying or advising on relevant legal reform, or other types of activity. The exact mandate and authority of NHRIs varies from one country to another – for instance, not all NHRIs are empowered to investigate individual complaints and some NHRIs may have an official role in assessing the human rights impact of newly proposed laws, while others can only engage less formally in the law-making process. The position of the NHRI within the state will necessarily have an impact on the ways in which it can get involved in issues of statelessness, yet in general the role of NHRIs as an independent and authoritative human rights monitoring body offers great promise and its engagement alongside national government, international organisation and NGO stakeholders can add significant value. The wide range of activities that can be undertaken by NHRIs, from research and documentation, to investigation of complaints, to training and education on human rights themes, also offers great scope for different forms of engagement on statelessness and related issues – as has been illustrated in the examples set out in this report.

Based on the foregoing, it would be of interest to explore ways in which the engagement of NHRIs on statelessness could be further encouraged and facilitated. One concrete suggestion would be through the development and dissemination of a guidance document that can be used as a reference by NHRI staff around the world in their existing and future work on statelessness. This could include, as a minimum, sections covering the following topics:

⁵⁷ The full text of this Declaration can be found online at:
http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Regional/Africa/6thConferenceDocuments/Kigali_Declaration_Final.pdf.

- *Statelessness as a human rights concern – including a clear explanation of the concept of statelessness*⁵⁸
- *Statelessness and the mandate of NHRIs*⁵⁹
- *Key international instruments, norms and mechanisms for a human rights response to statelessness*⁶⁰
- *Recent regional and international developments in the field of statelessness*⁶¹
- *Examples of NHRI engagement on statelessness, with a particular focus on good practices*⁶² – potentially also including examples of concrete cases of violations of rights of stateless persons and how these were resolved⁶³

In the development and dissemination of this resource, it would be of interest to seek the cooperation of UNHCR – the UN agency mandated to support states and other stakeholders in working to address statelessness and has experience in developing guidance notes for specific audiences.⁶⁴ Many NHRIs have already formed a partnership with UNHCR offices at the national or regional level, either for ongoing engagement on statelessness or in the context of specific activities. This is a very encouraging sign and it would appear, from the survey responses, that those offices which have collaborated with UNHCR at some stage, have perhaps a slightly better grasp of the issues at stake and were able to offer concrete examples of their engagement.

The process of developing such a resource could also be embraced as an opportunity to follow-up on the mapping of existing NHRI engagement which was commenced in this study. For instance, the survey questionnaire could be adapted as an instrument to capture, more specifically, information related to good practices which could feed into the guidance document. If, at the global or regional level, interest emerges through this process in further networking or information exchange between NHRIs, this could also be pursued. For instance, the First Global Forum on Statelessness, to be held in the Hague in September 2014, could be used as a venue for one or more workshops on responses to

⁵⁸ There is some evidence in the survey responses that misconceptions still surround the question of who is a stateless person and the scope of the definition, it would be important to provide clear and simple guidance on this so that all NHRIs share the same understanding of the problem and this is in accordance with international law.

⁵⁹ From some of the details of the survey responses and the non-response (including, for instance, the German NHRI's statement that it has nothing to say on the issue of statelessness), it is apparent that more can be done to elucidate the links between NHRIs mandates, current work and various human rights interests and the problem of statelessness. This would significantly increase the likelihood that NHRIs are able to identify opportunities, including within their existing activities, to work on statelessness.

⁶⁰ For those NHRIs that participate in, for instance, human rights reporting, it will be of particular interest to understand which norms and mechanisms are relevant in responding to statelessness. For instance, the Croatian NHRI indicated it has raised the issue of removing obstacles to the granting of citizenship within the UPR process. The Netherlands NHRI also specifically suggested that an insight into relevant regional and international jurisprudence would be of interest for its work on statelessness.

⁶¹ Specific suggestion by the Netherlands NHRI in its survey response.

⁶² Suggestion raised by a number of NHRIs in their survey response.

⁶³ Specific suggestion by the Georgian NHRI in its survey response.

⁶⁴ For instance, UNHCR has worked with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop a handbook on statelessness aimed specifically towards parliamentarians. This can be accessed online at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/436608b24.html>.

statelessness by NHRIs.⁶⁵ With sufficient interest, this event could also be used as a launch-pad for an ongoing (electronic) network or platform for information sharing by NHRIs on statelessness and related work.⁶⁶ It may also present an opportunity to formulate common principles or aims for NHRI engagement on statelessness, along the lines of those expressed for Africa in the Kigali Declaration cited above.

⁶⁵ “Responses to statelessness” is one of the three core themes of this event, alongside “Statelessness and Security” and “Stateless Children”. It may also be of interest to pursue the specific question of NHRI engagement on stateless children, potentially also bringing on board other actors such as children’s ombudsmen (Europe, for example, has a European Network of Ombudspersons for Children). For details of the First Global Forum on Statelessness, see www.tilburguniversity.edu/statelessness2014.

⁶⁶ Specific suggestion by the Netherlands NHRI in its survey response.

ANNEX 1: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

SURVEY ON THE ROLE OF NHRIs IN ADDRESSING STATELESSNESS

Why a study of statelessness and NHRIs?

Statelessness is a global human rights problem that affects an estimated 12 million people. The very existence of statelessness demonstrates the failure by states to fulfil the basic right to a nationality which is protected by article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recognised under all major international and regional human rights regimes. At the same time, a person who is not considered as a national by any state will find themselves vulnerable to further, cumulative human rights violations. Stateless people commonly find it difficult or impossible to access education, healthcare, employment, property rights, civil registration, travel documents and more. As such, even in countries without a significant stateless population, the issue deserves attention. The prevention of new cases of statelessness is a critical and ongoing challenge that requires monitoring nationality policy to avoid discriminatory practices and promote the implementation of dedicated legal safeguards.

What is the objective of the study?

This study aims to map to what extent National Human Rights Institutions are engaged in the issue of statelessness. Is this in the context of promoting and protecting the enjoying of the right to a nationality? Or are NHRIs involved in ensuring that stateless people are able to exercise the full range of rights which they enjoy under international law, in spite of their lack of nationality? Or both? Does statelessness currently feature in NHRIs mandates and activities, or is this an area where NHRIs are interested in developing their expertise and involvement? The survey enclosed below is designed to capture key information in regard to these questions. The responses will be compiled and compared by specialists in the field of statelessness based at Tilburg University in the Netherlands. This information will form the basis for a comparative report which will, in particular, identify common themes and interests, as well as gaps in NHRIs response to this critical human rights issue. The comparative report will be made available to NHRIs and others. It will also feed directly into preparations for a broader dialogue of stakeholders on lessons learned and ways forward in addressing statelessness during the *First Global Forum on Statelessness* (to be held in the Hague in September 2014).

Please answer the questions below, providing details and examples where relevant. Feel free to insert links to relevant information or sources online, or to attach supporting documents. We kindly ask that you submit the completed survey to by 8 July 2013, via Statelessness.Programme@tilburguniversity.edu.

Questionnaire

Experience with statelessness:

1. Has your institution come across the problem of statelessness or come into contact with stateless people through any of its activities? If so:
 - a. What was the context? [Dedicated statelessness activities, or e.g. through work on migration, asylum, detention, child rights, gender equality, civil registration...]
 - b. Did your institution have the necessary knowledge and capacity to deal with the issues raised in relation to statelessness?
2. What does your institution understand is meant by the term statelessness? Have you developed any guidance notes or other resources explaining the term statelessness for use by your staff and/or partners?
3. Is statelessness an area of concern for your institution?
 - a. Do you have employees who are dedicated to working on the issue?

- b. Is statelessness included in your policy or work plan?
 - c. Is your institution interested in developing (more) expertise or activities on statelessness in the future?
4. As an NHRI, do you consider statelessness to be a serious problem? In your country, does statelessness mainly come up in the migration context or is there an existing 'in situ' stateless population, i.e. people who are stateless in their own country (or both)?

Preventing statelessness:

5. Has the State's nationality law been reformed/amended in the past few years? Was your institution involved in giving advice as part of this nationality law reform?
- a. Did this advice include information related to preventing discrimination in the granting of nationality?
 - b. Did this advice include information on ensuring safeguards against statelessness were in place?
6. As an NHRI, what action have you taken to help to prevent statelessness? In particular:
- a. Have you assisted individuals or groups to acquire, retain or re-acquire a nationality?
 - b. Have you been involved in raising awareness as to the importance of birth registration?
 - c. Have you been involved in lobbying or advising the government in relation to removing any discrimination in the granting of nationality?
 - d. Have you been involved in lobbying or advising the government in fulfilling its obligations relating to the right to nationality under international treaties that the State is a party to?
 - e. Have you been involved in submitting reports on compliance with international human rights instruments which contain information relating to the State's compliance with the right to nationality?
 - f. Would you be interested to expand your involvement in preventing statelessness?

Protecting the rights of stateless people:

7. What action has your institution taken to promote the enjoyment of fundamental rights by stateless people in the country?
- a. Have you assisted people without a nationality to be formally recognised as stateless and/or to gain residency?
 - b. Have you assisted people without a nationality to access particular rights/services?
 - c. Have you been involved in lobbying or advising the government in relation to fulfilling obligations relating to the enjoyment of rights by people who are stateless?
 - d. Have you been involved in submitting reports on compliance with international human rights instruments which contain information relating to the State's treatment of stateless people?
 - e. Have you sought to raise awareness about the issue of statelessness in general?
 - f. Would you be interested to expand your involvement in protecting the rights of stateless people?

Co-operation and co-ordination:

8. How does your institution seek information relating to statelessness and nationality issues?
- a. Have you established specific partnerships or relationships to enable the sharing of information relating to issues of statelessness and nationality? With who?
 - b. Have you engaged in any international co-operation or co-ordination on statelessness? With who?

9. Has your institution been involved in lobbying or advising the government in relation to acceding to international or regional treaties relating to statelessness? If so, which?
10. As an NHRI, how do you think international and regional co-operation and co-ordination on the issue of statelessness could be improved? Would you be interested to engage further in this?

Other issues:

11. Does your institution need further information or support in order to better address and prevent the problem of statelessness? Would you, in particular, be interested to engage in information sharing or receive technical assistance to help you to expand your role in tackling this issue?
12. Is there any further information relating to statelessness in the state in question or relevant activities of your institution that you would like to share?

Explanation of key terms used in the survey:

Stateless person: “A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law” (article 1, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons). In other words, a stateless person is someone who does not hold a nationality. This is a separate question from whether the person holds particular documentation (e.g. undocumented) or a particular residence status (e.g. irregular).

‘In situ’ stateless population: A stateless person or group still in their “own country”, i.e. the country where they were born and where their ancestors are from, but denied that country’s nationality. This can be contrasted with statelessness in the migration context, where a stateless person arrives in a country as a displaced person or migrant.

Nationality: A legal bond between a person and a state that results in a mutual relationship or rights and duties. For example, a national has the right to live in the state and may have the duty to perform military service.

Prevention of statelessness: Any activities aimed towards ensuring that a person is not left without any nationality. This may include ensuring that the law of a country includes adequate safeguards to provide a nationality to otherwise stateless children or ensuring that everyone has access to vital forms of documentation that provide proof of nationality.

ANNEX 2: EXAMPLES OF MATERIALS ON STATELESSNESS

Resources Developed by the Belgium NHRI - The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism.

Revue du Droit des Etrangers no.140 (2006) special edition on Statelessness with contribution of the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racisme (case law study)

Staatlozen: nergens en nooit onderdaan, overla en altijd vreemdeling – praktijkgericht handleiding (2007), stad Gent, available at http://www.diversite.be/index.php?action=artikel_detail&artikel=923

Grouped'étude de Démographie Appliquée (UCL)& Centre pour l'égalité des chances et la lutte contre le racisme, 'Demandeurs d'asile, réfugiés et apatrides en Belgique : un essai de démographie des populations demandeuses ou bénéficiaires d'une protection internationale' (Juillet 2008) available at http://www.emnbelgium.be/sites/default/files/publications/demandeurs_asile.pdf

"Mapping Statelessness in Belgium" UN High Commissioner for Refugees, *Mapping Statelessness in Belgium*, October 2012, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5100f4b22.html>