



Global Alliance to End Statelessness

Join the Global Alliance and Take a Stand to End Statelessness

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that “Everyone has the right to a nationality.” Yet, millions of people around the world are denied a nationality and are stateless, with serious impacts on their ability to enjoy even the most basic rights. Often, they are excluded from cradle to grave — being denied a legal identity when they are born, access to education, health care, marriage and job opportunities during their lifetime, and even the dignity of an official burial and a death certificate when they die.

Stateless people are found in all parts of the globe — Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas. Determining the exact global number of stateless people is challenging due to the hidden nature of statelessness and limited data collection by states. At least 4.4 million people were known to be stateless or of undetermined nationality at the end of 2023. The figure is likely an underestimate, as about half of all countries, including some with known stateless populations, do not report statelessness data.

Unlike other challenges facing humanity, statelessness is solvable forever, for everyone. That is what makes it so different. There are durable, concrete solutions to statelessness within our grasp, requiring political will to change laws and policies.

The Global Alliance to End Statelessness will thus bring together States, stateless-led organizations, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector. Statelessness calls for coordinated and collaborative action. Ending statelessness is possible if governments, regional intergovernmental organizations, and all other stakeholders hold the same belief and act on it.

We can relegate statelessness to the history books, but we need your commitment, collaboration— and your membership – to make it happen.

Why is the Global Alliance Needed Right Now?

“The Global Alliance allows for a transformative vision to make statelessness a relic of the past so that everyone has equal access to a nationality. We can permanently address the issue of statelessness only by working together.”

– Karina Ambartsoumian-Clough, Executive Director, United Stateless (a U.S.-based stateless-led organization)

The last 10 years have witnessed dramatic efforts to end statelessness. UNHCR’s IBelong campaign – which took place from 2014 until 2024 – helped raise awareness of statelessness among global audiences, as well as catalyzing pledges of action from governments, civil society and other organizations. Many countries have taken concrete action to grant nationality to stateless persons. Despite this important progress, statelessness remains a significant global problem. Only half of UN Member States are party to the statelessness conventions, and actions to prevent and reduce statelessness have been slow despite international commitments.

An estimated 85% of reported stateless persons live in just 10 countries where the situation is not improving. Many countries lack the necessary legal safeguards that prevent childhood statelessness. In addition, 24 countries don’t allow women to pass on nationality to their children in the same manner as men. Discrimination, gender inequality and gaps in nationality laws are major causes and barriers to ending statelessness.

These challenges also hinder achievement of the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Honoring the SDGs commitment to leave no one behind requires that we end statelessness together. That’s why the shared vision of the Global Alliance is **“a world free from statelessness in which everyone enjoys the right to a nationality without discrimination.”** And it’s why the time for action is now.



How Does the Global Alliance Work?

Ending statelessness requires a “whole-of-society” approach. It necessitates concrete actions by States to grant nationality to stateless persons and confirm the nationality of those with undetermined status. Together, we must work to resolve protracted stateless situations and prevent new instances of statelessness.

The Global Alliance represents a concerted shift toward co-creation and participatory action: generating evidence, facilitating political dialogue, sharing experiences and ideas, and mobilizing affected communities and other stakeholders at national, regional and global levels. UNHCR will lead this work and serve as the Global Alliance’s Secretariat.

The Global Alliance will provide a platform for learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration, as well as building the political commitment needed to accelerate solutions to statelessness and uphold the rights of stateless people. It will connect global advocacy with regional and national actions to accelerate and drive positive change, including through:

- **A stronger focus on solutions**, including the resolution of protracted situations of statelessness and prevention of new instances of statelessness
- **Leveraging the opportunity of the Sustainable Development Goals** to form new partnerships and achieve legal identity for all
- **Recognizing the critical, transformative role of stateless communities and stateless-led organizations** through closer collaboration, engagement and empowerment



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“The community of the Global Alliance will be a workspace that is inspiring, that shines a light on how together we can work on a common human rights problem. And how a diversity of views from the people most affected, stateless people themselves, to experts, civil society organizations, to UN agencies, to governments can come together, discuss, think, examine good practice, and ultimately take the steps necessary to end statelessness.”

– Claude Cahn, Human Rights Officer, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

Why join the Global Alliance?

Statelessness needs us to act with bold pragmatism. We must take a stand and act together to end statelessness once and for all. That is why the Global Alliance will develop practical tools to facilitate focused and effective collaboration. By joining, you will gain access to a platform where we unite as a collective — listening to and learning from one another, exchanging ideas, and connecting the dots in innovative ways.

The Global Alliance offers multiple ways to stay involved and contribute to the cause:



The Solutions Seekers Programme,

which accelerates pledge implementation and solutions at the country level through capacity building, collaboration, and the development of National Action Plans.



Regional Network Labs

that facilitate the sharing of expertise, ensuring continuous learning and the development of context-specific strategies.



Thematic Working Groups

focused on addressing childhood statelessness, discrimination in nationality laws, and the rights of stateless persons, promoting best practices and advanced solutions.

Statelessness must be consigned to history, and as members, we will not rest until this happens. Together, we will identify and address the gaps in laws, policies and practices that create new cases of statelessness and let existing situations persist. We will build the political commitment needed to eradicate statelessness and uphold the rights of stateless people, wherever they may be.

Join the Global Alliance to be part of a dedicated community committed to ensuring that every individual enjoys the rights to a nationality without discrimination, leaving a profound and lasting impact on generations to come.

You can learn more about the Global Alliance on its website – statelessnessalliance.org

Or use this QR code to **sign up and get involved today.**

