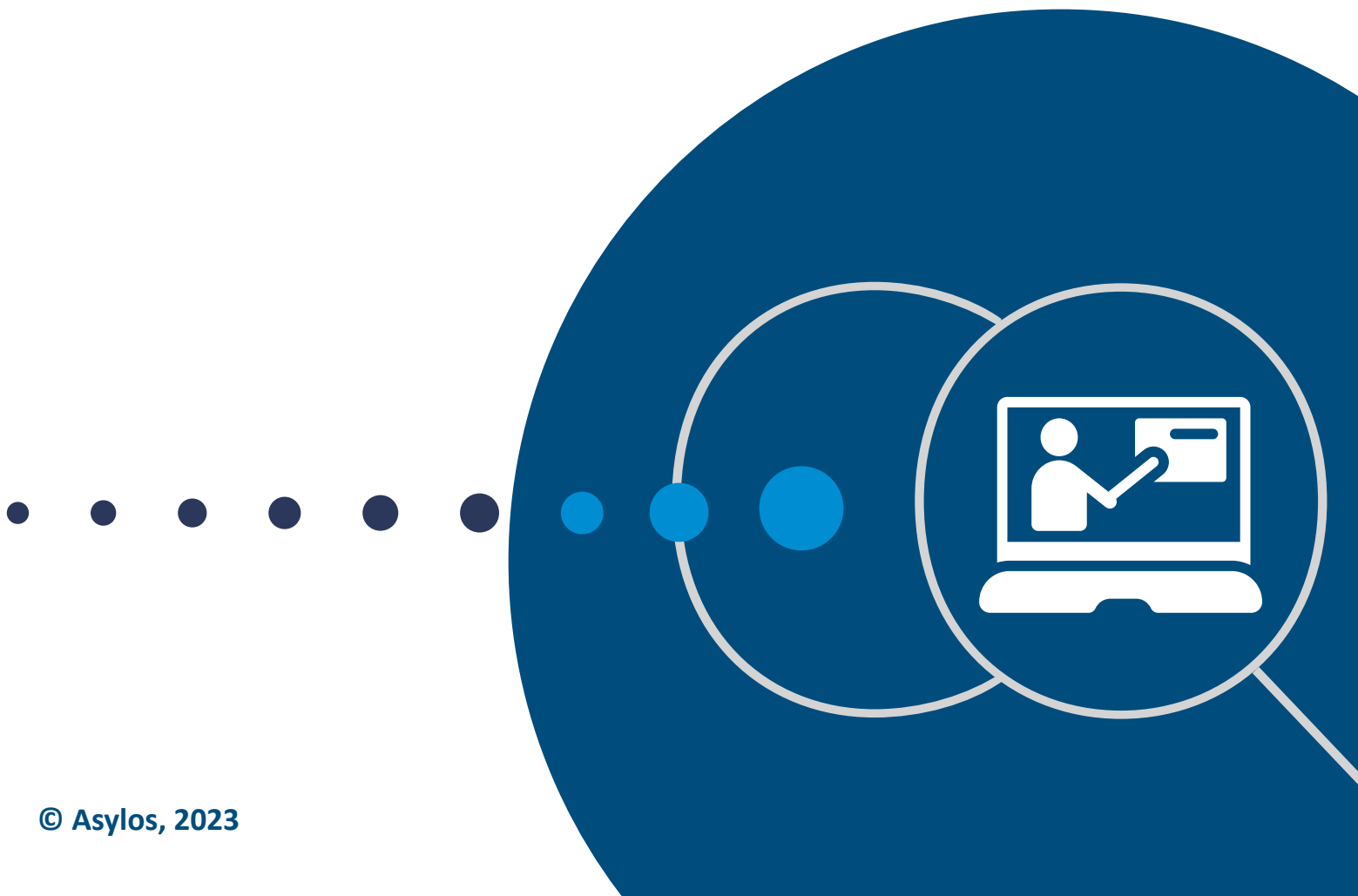




Asylos | Training Series  
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2023

# Conducting Country of Origin Information Research on Statelessness



# Acknowledgements

## Thank you

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the [European Network on Statelessness](#) and [the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion](#) for bringing up the topic of statelessness Country of Origin Information (COI) with Asylos. The section on "Statelessness Status in the UK: Part 14 of the Immigration Rules" would not have been possible without the great assistance of Judith Carter and Djamilla Hitchins, for which we are sincerely thankful.

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## Who we are

Asylos is a global network of volunteers providing free-of-charge Country of Origin Information (COI) research for lawyers helping people seeking international protection with their claim. Asylos works to ensure that people seeking international protection and their legal counsel have access to crucial sources and data to substantiate their claim. Asylos volunteers use their research and language skills to access detailed information. More information can be found on [Asylos' website](#).

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## Feedback and comments

Should you have comments or questions about this handbook please direct them to: [info@asylos.eu](mailto:info@asylos.eu)

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## Acronyms

COI – Country of Origin Information

CPIN – UK Home Office Country Policy and Information Note

CPIT – UK Home Office Country Policy and Information Team

ENS – The European Network on Statelessness

ISI – The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion

PWDs – Persons with disabilities

SDP – Statelessness Determination Procedure

UNHCR – The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNRWA – The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

# 1. Introduction

This handbook should be read alongside our [Country of Origin Information \(COI\): Evidencing asylum claims in the UK](#) handbook, which explains fundamental principles of Country of Origin Information research, its use in the UK refugee status determination, quality criteria, research tips and guidance on avoiding common pitfalls.

## 1.1 Context: Country of Origin Information (COI) on statelessness

Much of COI is tailored to the international protection context, meanwhile statelessness may not even be identified as a possible issue in COI reports, or only very briefly addressed. A UNHCR audit on statelessness determination in the UK published in 2020 *‘notes the limited availability of country information on statelessness’*, and at the same time highlights the important role that COI can play in determining statelessness applications.<sup>1</sup> Findings from the audit led the UNHCR to recommend that *‘Relevant Home Office COI reports should include a section on “nationality and citizenship”’*.<sup>2</sup>

Experts by experience, lawyers, NGOs, and academics who took part in consultations with Asylos repeatedly pointed to a general lack of awareness among decision-makers and legal counsel about the contexts in which a person may be affected by statelessness. Converging with the findings of the UNHCR audit, many also highlighted a lack of information on the issue of statelessness in COI reports, including those produced by the UK Home Office.

In particular, participants identified the need for COI tailored to address not just nationality and citizenship frameworks but also how they are applied and how stateless people are treated by the authorities in countries of habitual residence.

Furthermore, participants observed that COI often lacks due attention to the diversity of terminology that may be used to describe people who are experiencing statelessness in the context of their country of habitual residence, which can lead to misunderstanding a person’s situation. The general lack of COI and the inadequacies in the COI that does exist on statelessness raise the risk that the applications of stateless persons may not be properly understood as engaging issues of statelessness, dealt with through the appropriate process, and fairly adjudicated.

## 1.2 Asylos project on statelessness

In March 2023 in response to the issues raised by NGOs and academics, legal representatives working on statelessness. Asylos published a [country report on the situation of stateless Palestinians in Lebanon](#), combining interviews with individuals with authoritative knowledge on the topic alongside excerpts from country information available in the public domain.

We also developed a [principles document](#), handbook (this document) and training module to guide those conducting COI research on statelessness related issues.

## 1.3 Consultations with statelessness experts

Asylos conducted in-depth consultations with a range of stakeholders, ranging from those with lived experience of statelessness, to academics, lawyers and NGOs with expertise on statelessness. These consultations provided invaluable insight, helping us to identify information gaps and inadequacies in the available COI on statelessness. To supplement the consultations, we also conducted a (unpublished) rapid desk review of literature on statelessness, and a review of which Home Office CPINs address statelessness.

1. UNHCR, [Stateless Determination in the UK: A UNHCR audit of the Home Office approach to decision-making in the Statelessness Determination Procedure](#), see p. 35, 2020
2. UNHCR, [Stateless Determination in the UK: A UNHCR audit of the Home Office approach to decision-making in the Statelessness Determination Procedure](#), see p. 10, 2020

(...)

Through the consultations, we sought to identify a research focus that could serve as a ‘case-study’ that provides relevant and up to date COI on a particular group of stateless persons, but also creates the opportunity to distil broadly applicable best practice principles when conducting COI research on the issue of statelessness.

Many stakeholders we consulted identified stateless Palestinians as a group for whom existing COI is often inadequate. This is due to many factors, including the complexity of their statuses in the different countries in which stateless Palestinians reside, the kinds of documentation available to them, the entitlements that come with those documents, how easy it is to renew them, and whether they fall under the mandate of The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The theme of stateless Palestinians in Lebanon was selected as a focus for this research project, given that it represents a prime example of the diverse and complex causes that can lead to and perpetuate the problem of statelessness, from displacement due to conflict (in the case of Palestinian Refugees from Syria) and discrimination, to gender-discriminatory laws, in which women often cannot pass on their citizenship to their children. As featured in the *Atlas of the Stateless*, which was published in October 2020 by Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, the situation is especially dire in Lebanon, where many people are still stateless as a result of the Nationality Law of 1925.<sup>3</sup>

An unpublished rapid review of existing COI, including governmental and intergovernmental sources, on stateless Palestinians in Lebanon revealed the following gaps and areas for improvement:

#### Currency:

- ⇒ Available sources lacked up-to-date information on nationality and citizenship laws, documentation, related entitlements and treatment of different groups of Palestinians by the Lebanese authorities. It is sometimes assumed that laws are not subject to frequent change, however, laws and practices can be fast changing, and up-to-date COI is an important tool for understanding the current situation and how it has evolved.

#### Terminology:

- ⇒ Not all sources defined the statuses of, or consistently made distinctions between different groups of Palestinians living in Lebanon. For example, sources did not always distinguish the different experiences of ‘Registered Palestine Refugees’, ‘Non-registered Palestinian Refugees’, ‘Non-ID Refugees’ and ‘Palestinian Refugees from Syria’.

#### Gaps and clarity:

- ⇒ Information on the precise Palestinian populations that UNRWA aids was found to be vague or unclear.

#### Implementation of laws and policies in practice:

- ⇒ Although laws and policies applicable to stateless Palestinians in Lebanon may have been set out, sources did not always clearly and sufficiently include COI on the barriers that different groups of stateless Palestinian refugees may face when seeking documentation, including to travel.

#### Intersectionality:<sup>4</sup>

- ⇒ None of the reports contain explicit reference to the ‘intersection’ of stateless with other individual characteristics, for example the situation of single mothers, children whose fathers have passed away, or who have child protection needs).

#### Inclusion of lived experience expertise:

- ⇒ There is little evidence to suggest that oral information was sought directly from stateless persons or stateless persons’ organisations.

3. Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, [Atlas of the Stateless](#), see p.32, October 2020

4. Intersectionality is a way of thinking about a person, group of people, or social problem as affected by the interplay between the various identities an individual identifies with (see Professor Kimberly Crenshaw (1989), for example Race, Class and Gender). It takes into account these overlapping identities, and experiences in order to understand the complexity of the prejudice they face.

(...)

## 1.4 Report: Stateless Palestinians in Lebanon

Our report [Lebanon: Stateless Palestinians](#) findings span over 180 pages and paint a troubling picture of the situation for stateless Palestinians in Lebanon. Palestinians don't have access to most of their basic human rights in Lebanon.

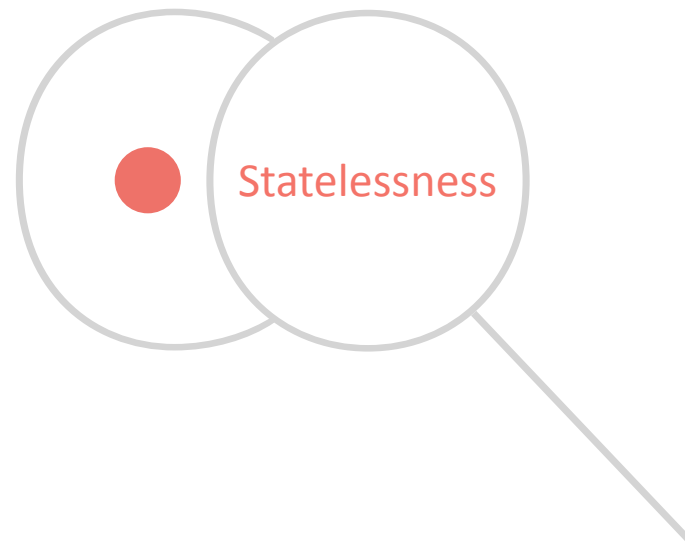
Sources highlight the various forms and layers of discrimination at the hands of state actors as well as within communities and families. This includes denial of their rights as stateless persons, which are set out in international agreements.

Lebanon is not a signatory to the 1954 Convention that defines and requires states to protect stateless persons. It also does not have any laws that protect people who are stateless or who are at risk of becoming stateless. See a summary of our findings on our [website](#).

The report draws extensively on insights and information from interviews and correspondence with five experts from Lebanon, some with lived experience of statelessness. This was particularly important as our experience conducting COI research for the project illustrated many of the challenges and limitations noted in the COI review above that we will address in this handbook. This included:

- Lack of visibility of stateless persons in publicly available COI sources;
- Lack of reliable data;
- Limited stateless specific sources or general sources with stateless specific information; and
- Lack of clear terminology to distinguish stateless persons in different situations who may have different experiences of statelessness;
- Lack of sources taking into account different aspects of the identity of stateless persons (i.e. an intersectional approach).

We will draw on our learning and examples from the report throughout this handbook.



## 2. Guidance

### 2.1 What is statelessness? Who does it affect? And what are the consequences?

A person who is not considered a national by any State, under the operation of its law, is stateless.<sup>5</sup> The establishment of new states and changes in borders, as well as loss or deprivation of nationality, are only a few of the factors that can lead to statelessness. Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, language, or gender can also lead to statelessness. A person may also be at risk of statelessness if they cannot prove that they have a link to a country. For instance, if a child's birth is not registered, they cannot prove where they were born or who their parents are.<sup>6</sup>

There are two categories of statelessness: de jure statelessness and de facto statelessness.

#### De Jure Stateless:

⇒ This refers to individuals who are not considered as nationals by any state under the operation of its law. Basically, it means that no state recognises them as citizens in a legal sense.

**Example:** The Rohingya in Myanmar. The Rohingya are an ethnic minority in Myanmar that have been denied citizenship by the Myanmar government. Despite many of them living in the country for generations, they are not recognised as citizens under Myanmar law, making them de jure stateless.

#### De Facto Stateless:

⇒ There is no formal definition in international law of de facto statelessness. This refers to individuals who, although they technically possess a nationality, do not enjoy the protection of any country and cannot avail themselves of their rights because they are not effectively recognised as citizens anywhere.

**Example:** A person born in a country that subsequently dissolves into multiple new states (like the dissolution of the Soviet Union or Yugoslavia). If this person finds themselves in a situation where none of the new states recognises or grants them citizenship, even if one of those states should, they could become de facto stateless.

It should be noted that although international law treats their statuses as distinct, people who are de jure stateless and people who are de facto stateless can share lived experiences because they are unable to enjoy the rights that come with having a nationality. The Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961 Convention) contains the following recommendation:

**that persons who are stateless de facto should as far as possible be treated as stateless de jure to enable them to acquire an effective nationality.<sup>7</sup>**

Understanding the distinction between de jure statelessness and de facto statelessness is important and care must be taken from a legal point of view to ensure that those qualifying as "stateless persons" under Article 1(1) of the 1954 Convention be recognized as such. If mistakenly referred to as de facto stateless persons, they may fail to receive the protection guaranteed under the 1954 Convention.<sup>8</sup>

5. 1954 Convention Article 1(1)

6. UNICEF and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) have joined forces to enhance knowledge about childhood statelessness and explore solutions for this breach of children's rights. The partnership has resulted in a course book titled "[The child's right to a nationality and childhood statelessness: Texts & materials](#)." The book aims to educate UNICEF staff and civil society organisations about children's nationality rights and the issue of childhood statelessness by offering a curated selection of materials that explain fundamental concepts and help build capacity. April 2023, Colin Yeo: Refugee Law, 2022 pgs.78-79

7. UN General Assembly, [Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness](#), 30 August 1961

8. OSCE and UNHCR: [Handbook on Statelessness in the OSCE Area International Standards and Good Practices](#), p15, 28 February 2017

(...)

The importance of understanding this distinction is also further highlighted in this Doctoral Thesis by Caia Vlieks:<sup>9</sup>

“In academic literature as well as in reports on statelessness, a distinction is sometimes made between statelessness in situ (i.e. in the original place) and statelessness in a migratory context.<sup>32</sup> These terms are used to indicate a difference in the situation and context in which statelessness occurs, and also say something about the level of attachment of a stateless person to the country where he or she resides.<sup>33</sup>

This is evident when attempting to provide definitions for the two concepts. Statelessness in situ concerns persons who remain stateless in their ‘own country’, often since birth and thus (usually) in a non-migratory context. Their situation is characterized by the fact that they are long-standing residents or were residents at the time of state succession and they have (personal and/or family) ties to the country, which they have with no other country. Persons who are stateless in a migratory context are migrants or have a migratory background with no or no significant ties to the country they live in (yet).<sup>34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Eg Laura van Waas, ‘Stateless Children’ in Jacqueline Bhabha, Jyothi Kanics & Daniel Senovila Hernández, *Research Handbook on Child Migration* (Edward Elgar Publishing 2018) 213–228, 213; Gábor Gyulai, ‘Statelessness in the EU Framework for International Protection’ (2012) 14 *European Journal of Migration and Law* 279, 279–280; Mark Manly, ‘UNHCR’s Mandate and Activities to Address Statelessness in Europe’ (2012) 14 *European Journal of Migration and Law* 261.

<sup>33</sup> Caia Vlieks, ‘Contexts of Statelessness. I.e Concepts ‘Statelessness in situ’ and ‘Statelessness in the Migratory Context’ in Tendayi Bloom, Katherine Tonkiss & Phillip Cole, *Understanding Statelessness* (Routledge 2017) 35–52, 36.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid 35–52, 50.

**“I am 30 years old, and a month ago I got my first passport.”**

**– Maha Mamo<sup>10</sup>**

“Invisible.” “Excluded.” “Worthless.” These are just a few of the phrases that stateless people frequently use to describe themselves, as highlighted by Dr. Dagmar Enkelmann Chair of the Executive Board, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung in the [Atlas of the Stateless<sup>11</sup>](#), published in October 2020.

People who are stateless face serious consequences, as statelessness may render them unseen in their society, depriving them of access to fundamental human rights such as:

- Healthcare
- Education
- Marriage
- Freedom of movement
- Employment
- Political participation

Another factor that contributes to their invisibility is lack of reliable data. Because stateless persons are not a homogenous group, data is required to understand not only the number of stateless people in a country but also who they are and what their protection needs are, but this data is frequently hard to come by. Although the primary responsibility for identifying stateless people lies with the state, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is mandated to identify stateless individuals as well. According to the UNHCR's Global Trends report for 2021, there are 4.3 million stateless people worldwide.<sup>12</sup> And Palestinians, Rohingya, Roma, Nubians, Bidoon, and Yao are populations who are at high risk of statelessness.

<sup>9</sup> Vlieks, C. (2022). [Nationality and statelessness in Europe: European law on preventing and solving statelessness](#). [Doctoral Thesis, Tilburg University]. Intersentia

<sup>10</sup> You can learn more about Maha Mamo and her activism and advocacy work on stateless via her website at: <https://youtu.be/RzffChmXKyA>

<sup>11</sup> Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, [Atlas of the Stateless](#), see p.32, October 2020

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR, [Global Trends Report 2021](#), see p.4, 2021

(...)

Given the immense difficulties in generating reliable statistics, any statistics on statelessness should be treated with caution. For example, just because available figures suggest a particular country has no or low levels of statelessness does not mean a person coming from that country is not, or is not likely to be stateless. Better statistics therefore plays a crucial role in COI research, including identifying what population is affected by statelessness. To improve its capability for compiling data on populations of stateless people, UNHCR and the United Nations Population Fund have decided to collaborate with national statistical organisations.<sup>13</sup> A group of experts was formed to create and accept consensus norms and definitions for statelessness: the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons, and Statelessness Statistics (EGRIS) International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics (IRRS, published in 2018)<sup>14</sup> – an internationally accepted framework for statistics on refugee and refugee-related populations. Amongst other things, the recommendations covered subjects including Legal framework for statelessness; definition of statelessness for the purpose of statistical measurement; assessment of data sources and methods and ways to improve them; analysis of the characteristics of stateless populations; and steps to improve statistical coordination.

In the UK, the Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on those who come to the UK, stay, gain citizenship, apply for asylum, and are detained or removed, including those who come for work, study, or family reasons.<sup>15</sup> The Home Office provides statistics on asylum applications categorised by nationality, which includes figures for stateless applicants. Yet, there aren't dedicated datasets detailing the number of applications for stateless leave under paragraph 403.

The census, undertaken by the UK Office of National Statistics (ONS)<sup>16</sup>, is the most comprehensive source of data on the UK population. The information includes the size, age, sex, and geographic distribution of the population in the UK, as well as information on international migration and within the country, population changes, and the factors that have contributed to these changes.<sup>17</sup>

In Europe, the statistical agency of the European Union is called Eurostat.<sup>18</sup> It provides data and statistics on Europe. Its duty is to deliver statistics to the EU at the EU level that allow for comparisons between nations and regions.

Data on emerging and international flows, citizenship gains and losses, and other information are published. These data are broken down in a variety of ways, including citizenship, country of birth, and other factors.

### What does this mean for COI research?

- Almost no countries of origin outside of Europe collect wholly reliable statistics on statelessness. Be cautious in the use of any data you do find. Just because a country does not seem – in the statistics – to have a significant problem with statelessness, or just because it identifies the problem as located in a particular community, does not mean there are no other risks of statelessness. Qualitative, contextual research must always be part of the research.

<sup>13</sup>. UNHCR, [Better statistics to help end statelessness](#), Jan 21, 2020

<sup>14</sup>. Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, [International Recommendations on Refugee Statistics](#), March 2018

<sup>15</sup>. UK Government: [Migration statistics](#), last updated 25 May 2023

<sup>16</sup>. Office for National Statistics (ONS), Population and migration, [Data and analysis from Census 2021](#)

<sup>17</sup>. Although completing the census is compulsory, stateless people may not self-identify as stateless, and may not live in stable accommodation, which is likely to lead to undercounting.

<sup>18</sup>. Eurostat, statistics and data on Europe

(…)

- In case the country you are researching does not publish relevant statistics on statelessness, it is worth reaching out to the appropriate agency or department to inquire if they gather data segmented by gender, age, and/or location. Collecting data on gender, age, and location can help provide a more nuanced understanding of statelessness and inform efforts to address it effectively
- If you're researching European states, it's highly recommended you take a look at the European Network on Statelessness' **Statelessness Index** which assesses how countries in Europe protect stateless people and what they are doing to prevent and reduce statelessness.
- Bear in mind that the specific data you need may not be available; this could be because it was never collected or because statistical information, such as census data, might rely on self-identification. In the case of statelessness, an individual may not identify themselves as stateless or the country concerned may mis-identify stateless people or be unable or unwilling to reach them in statistical studies.
- Keep in mind that just because a piece of information is not available to the general public doesn't mean that stateless people do not exist. This merely indicates that the data has not been gathered or published. Furthermore, sometimes the data is available but it's not correct.
- In the case of the UK Home Office, you can also request such information that has not already been published in the quarterly migration datasets by submitting a **Freedom of Information request**.

## 2.2 Legal definition of statelessness and other statelessness concepts

The international legal definition of a stateless person is provided by the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons as “a person who is not considered a national by any State under the operation of its law”.<sup>19</sup>

For stateless people, the lack of any nationality is not merely the lack of a legal status or document.

It is a condition that deprives them of the basic rights that most of us take for granted. They are denied a legal identity at birth and often refused education and opportunity during childhood, and may find themselves unable to marry or work legally in adulthood. Even the basic ability to reside lawfully in their countries of birth remains precarious.

Stateless persons may face multiple discrimination. This can be experienced as cumulative or additive discrimination, where two or more forms of discrimination happen at the same time but are not related to each other.

Or as intersectional discrimination, where two or more forms of discrimination interact in such a way that they are inseparable (see **section 4.2 of this handbook** for more information on taking an intersectional approach in your research).

### Persons at risk of statelessness

A person who is not stateless but is at risk of becoming so is a person whose statelessness has not yet been determined, or a person whose statelessness may become evident over time.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>19</sup>. This definition can be found explicitly in Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, one of the two major international instruments that deal specifically with the issue of statelessness. [https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/wp-content/uploads/1954-Convention-relating-to-the-Status-of-Stateless-Persons\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/wp-content/uploads/1954-Convention-relating-to-the-Status-of-Stateless-Persons_ENG.pdf) see p.6

<sup>20</sup>. ENS, **Statelessness determination and protection in Europe**, see p.3, September 2021

(...)

There are various examples of persons who are at risk of statelessness, including:

#### Children born to stateless parents:

- ⇒ Children who are born to stateless parents or parents whose nationality is not acknowledged by the state may be at risk of becoming stateless themselves because they may not immediately inherit their parents' nationality.

#### Refugees and asylum seekers:

- ⇒ Refugees and asylum seekers who are unable to prove their nationality or who have been stripped of their nationality by their home country may also be at risk of statelessness.

#### Persons affected by administrative errors:

- ⇒ Administrative errors or omissions in the registration of births or citizenship can also lead to statelessness, particularly for vulnerable populations such as refugees, migrants, or those living in conflict zones.

#### Ethnic or religious minorities:

- ⇒ Ethnic or religious minorities who are discriminated against or excluded from citizenship by the state may also be at risk of statelessness.

#### Nomadic groups:

- ⇒ Groups with no fixed abode and who cross international borders, such as the Roma in Europe, might face difficulties in proving their links to any one state.

#### Individuals affected by state succession:

- ⇒ When a state breaks up, merges, or undergoes significant territorial changes (e.g., the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the USSR, and Czechoslovakia), populations may find themselves living in a new state and might not automatically receive citizenship from the new entity.

## 2.3 Overlap between statelessness and refugeehood

Some stateless individuals may become refugees, and some refugees may become stateless. Despite the fact that the majority of stateless people remain in their country of habitual residence, some do not and end up migrating or fleeing.

For instance, a stateless person may be forced to flee their country of habitual residence due to persecution or violence and subsequently qualify as a refugee. On the other hand, a refugee may lose their nationality while seeking asylum in another country, either due to the laws of their country of origin or the inability to establish their nationality. Stateless people who meet the criteria for refugee status under the 1951 Refugee Convention are protected.

This overlap between statelessness and refugeehood is highlighted by Colin Yeo, a leading immigration barrister, in his recent book, *Refugee Law*:

“[...] one of the major problems faced by a refugee is that they are *de facto* (effectively) stateless. A refugee is, by definition, outside their country of origin and has lost the protection of that country, leaving them without ‘the right to have rights’ in a system of sovereign nation-states. But, formally, a refugee will often retain the nationality of their country of origin. Some refugees may also be *de jure* (in law) stateless, as is recognised in the definition itself in the reference to a person ‘who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence’. However, it is not necessary for a refugee to also be stateless. As the preamble to the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons 1954 (‘Stateless Persons Convention’) observes, there are many stateless persons who are not refugees. Indeed, many are stateless within the country in which they were born and still reside.” <sup>21</sup>

21. Colin Yeo: *Refugee Law*, see pgs.78-79, 2022

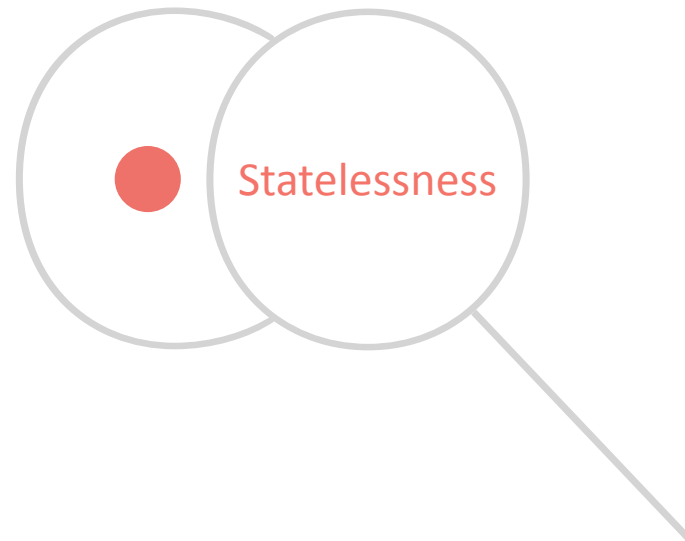
(...)

In summary, refugeehood and statelessness are related but distinct concepts. Some individuals may fall into both categories, but when it comes to COI research, it is important to recognise this overlap as it can inform decision-makers about the specific circumstances related to an individual's nationality, the reasons behind their statelessness or forced displacement, and the potential consequences of their return.

### What does this mean for COI research?

As a COI researcher, you should:

- Set out which groups of stateless, and/or groups at risk of statelessness may be relevant to include within the scope of the research.
- Understand the consequences of return: consider the specific challenges and risks that stateless persons or refugees may face upon return to their country of origin, including discrimination, arbitrary detention, forced conscription, or other human rights abuses. This information can help decision-makers assess the risk of refoulement, which is the forcible return of a person to a country where they may face persecution or other serious harm.



## 3. Legal context: International protection for stateless persons

### 3.1 Nationality is a human right

One of the most basic human rights is the right to one's nationality. Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>22</sup> mentions the right to one's nationality. It explicitly states that everyone has the right to obtain, change, and maintain their nationality:

- (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.
- (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.'

Despite being eligible for human rights as outlined in various UN Conventions, stateless individuals often struggle to access essential rights such as freedom of movement, employment, healthcare, and education.

In addition to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, several other international and regional instruments<sup>23</sup> contain provisions relevant to the protection of stateless persons:

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):** Article 15 of the UDHR states that "everyone has the right to a nationality" and "no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality."
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):** Article 24(3) of the ICCPR requires states to provide nationality to every child who would otherwise be stateless, ensuring their right to acquire a nationality.
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):** Article 7 of the CRC also emphasises the child's right to acquire a nationality, particularly when they would otherwise be stateless.

- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):** CEDAW calls for the elimination of gender-based discrimination in nationality laws, which can be a cause of statelessness.
- **Regional instruments:** Some regional instruments, such as the European Convention on Nationality and the American Convention on Human Rights, contain provisions related to the right to nationality and the prevention of statelessness.

States that are parties to these instruments have an obligation to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of stateless persons and take measures to prevent and reduce statelessness. However, the implementation of these legal frameworks varies across countries, and stateless persons still face significant challenges in accessing their rights and securing legal recognition.<sup>24</sup>



<sup>22</sup>. UN General Assembly, [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), 10 December 1948

<sup>23</sup>. European Network on Statelessness (ENS) [Statelessness Index](#) 2020

<sup>24</sup>. The European Network on Statelessness (ENS) [Statelessness Index](#) assesses how countries in Europe protect stateless people and what they are doing to prevent and reduce statelessness.

(…)

### 3.2 Protection under the Statelessness Conventions

International protection for stateless persons is provided primarily through two key international legal instruments:

#### 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons:

This convention establishes the definition of a stateless person as someone who is "not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law." The convention sets minimum standards for the treatment of stateless persons by contracting states, including their rights to employment, housing, education, public assistance, and access to courts. It also obliges states to issue identity papers and travel documents to stateless persons, facilitating their legal recognition and access to rights.<sup>25</sup>

#### 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness:

This convention aims to prevent and reduce statelessness by establishing rules for the acquisition and loss of nationality. The convention requires states to grant nationality to individuals who would otherwise be stateless in specific situations, such as when they are born on a state's territory or to its nationals abroad. It also imposes restrictions on the deprivation of nationality if such action would result in statelessness.<sup>26</sup>

### 3.3 Statelessness Determination Procedure (SDP)

A statelessness determination procedure serves to identify stateless persons amongst migrant populations on the territory to ensure that they enjoy the rights to which they are entitled until they acquire a nationality. States party to the 1954 Convention need to be able to identify stateless persons within their jurisdiction in order to provide them with appropriate treatment in compliance with the Convention. Establishing a procedure or mechanism to identify stateless persons is thus an implicit obligation of the 1954 Convention.

**The 1954 Convention establishes the international legal definition of a "stateless person" but is silent on how States are to determine whether an individual is stateless. The most effective way for States Parties to the 1954 Convention to determine who the Convention's beneficiaries are is to establish an SDP.<sup>27</sup>**

A key part of figuring out who is stateless is being able to find information about the person's country of origin. This includes Country of Origin Information (COI) about nationality laws and how they are applied, as well as the situation of certain stateless populations in other countries.

It is necessary to research the relevant laws and administrative procedures of all the nations with which that person or group of people has "relevant links," particularly those formed through birth, descent, marriage, adoption, or habitual residence.

Researching the relevant legislation, it is therefore necessary to undertake a review of the relevant legislation and administrative policies of all countries with which that person or group of people have "relevant links".

Constitutions, nationality laws, regulations, bylaws, and decrees are just a few examples of the types of legislation that can be used to establish the criteria that determine whether or not a person or group of people is recognised as a citizen.

<sup>25</sup>. UN General Assembly, [Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons](#), 28 September 1954

<sup>26</sup>. UN General Assembly, [Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness](#), 30 August 1961

<sup>27</sup>. UNHCR, [Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons](#), see paragraph 8, 30 June 2014

(...)

For instance, family law or other child protection law establishes guidelines for marriage, divorce, adoption, the age at which a person is deemed an adult, as well as other issues pertaining to civil status documents and nationality confirmation.

The process by which the law is to be implemented will typically be outlined in policies and administrative frameworks or documents, which can take the form of guidelines, protocols, procedures, etc.

### What does this mean for COI research?

In practical terms, this means that people conducting COI research should:

- Establish whether a country of habitual residence is a signatory to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- Seek information on whether and how statelessness is defined in the domestic law of the country of habitual residence
- Seek to understand whether and how different stateless individuals or groups, or those at risk of statelessness, within a country are recognised as stateless by the authorities, and if they are not recognised as stateless, why not and keep in mind that statelessness may not be the way their legal status is always described. They may consider themselves or to be considered by the state to be undocumented nationals or other similar categories.
- Establish whether members of a stateless group identify themselves as stateless, and if not, why not.
- Set out which groups of stateless, and/or groups at risk of statelessness may be relevant to include within the scope of the research.

### 3.4 Statelessness Status in the UK: Part 14 of the UK Immigration Rules

The UK ratified the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in April 1959. The responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to collaborate with governments in an effort to deter and minimise statelessness, while also identifying and providing protection to those individuals who are without a state. Statelessness is addressed specifically under Part 14 of the UK Immigration Rules,<sup>28</sup> which was introduced in April 2013.

According to Home Office guidance, this procedure allows:

**Stateless persons to be formally determined as stateless and granted leave to remain where they have no other right to remain under the rules but cannot leave voluntarily or be removed from the UK because they have no right of permanent residence in their country of former habitual residence or in any other country.<sup>29</sup>**

When applying for statelessness leave to remain in the UK, applicants must provide substantial evidence to support their statelessness application, including information about their status in their country of origin. The Home Office will use this information to assess the applicant's situation and determine if they meet the criteria for leave to remain as a stateless person.

Since statelessness is a nationality category, it can be relevant in other contexts, not just immigration leave to remain applications. A stateless person who has leave to remain in the UK can request a Stateless Person's Travel Document; stateless children born in the UK can apply to register as British; identifying statelessness may be relevant to a decision to detain; it may be a ground for revoking a deportation order and of course a decision to deprive a British citizen of nationality must consider whether the person could be left stateless. This section only addresses the immigration procedure.

<sup>28</sup>. UK Home Office [Immigration Rules Part 14](#), Section 401-416: stateless persons, 25 February 2016

<sup>29</sup>. Home Office [Stateless Guidance](#). [v3.0 of 1st November 2019], p.5

(...)

**Key aspects of Part 14 of the UK Immigration Rules:**

**Application process:** Stateless people can apply for leave to remain in the UK by submitting an online application to the Home Office under Part 14 of the immigration rules. At present the Home Office requires each family member to make their own application. They must provide substantial evidence of their identity, and statelessness, as well as any reasons why they cannot be admitted to another country.

**Definition of a Stateless Person:** Para 401 of Part 14 of the UK Immigration Rules adopts the definition of a stateless person found in the 1954 Statelessness Convention, which defines a stateless person as someone who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law. Para 401(c) states that the applicant must not be excluded from recognition as a stateless person under para 402.

The Home Office breaks down this definition in its stateless leave guidance and it is also worth noting this instruction incorporates guidance based on the UNHCR's 2014 Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons, albeit not in its entirety. In instances where disparities exist between this instruction and the handbook, the directives outlined in this instruction should be adhered to.<sup>30</sup>

**'The guidance in this instruction below is drawn from the UNHCR guidelines, set out in its 2014 Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons, although it does not follow those guidelines in every respect. Where there are differences, this instruction must be applied.'**

**Applying the 'not considered as a national' element**

It is only necessary to consider states with which an individual may be linked, whether by birth on the territory, descent, marriage, through a child or habitual residence. In some instances, consideration of this element alone may be decisive, if the only country or entity to which an individual has a relevant link is not recognised as a state, for example, Palestine.

However, in such cases, there may be other states in the region (or elsewhere) with which the applicant may be linked and where nationality may have been acquired. In addition, in relation to Palestine, the applicant may be excluded from recognition as a stateless person under Rule 402(a). [See Exclusions on the next page]

It will not be difficult in most instances to determine which country or entity is a 'state' and which is not, but for the purposes of this guidance, a 'state' is one recognised as such by the UK. This is regardless of the effectiveness of its government. A state which loses an effective central government because of internal conflict will nevertheless remain a 'state' for the purposes of Article 1(1) for as long as it remains recognised as such by the UK.

**Determining nationality under operation of state laws**

An understanding of the laws of nationality and their administration in practice in the applicable state (or states) concerned is required when considering whether a person is stateless. You must refer to relevant published COI, consider whether a request should be made to CPIT and, where appropriate, to the FCO, where further information is required to make an informed decision.

**Those not considered as nationals under state law and practice**

The law and practice of determining nationality can be complex. The following paragraphs, drawn from the UNHCR Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons, highlight the main elements in establishing nationality, or the lack of it. The reference to 'law' in Article 1(1) should be read broadly to encompass not just legislation, but also ministerial decrees, regulations, orders, judicial case law (in countries with a tradition of precedent) and, where appropriate, customary practice.

<sup>30</sup>. Home Office [Stateless Guidance](#). [v3.0 of 1st November 2019], pgs. 18-19

(...)

However, it is important that you do not apply provisions of foreign law selectively or in isolation from other relevant law or practices because you need to make a decision based on all the evidence available.

You will need to assess the evidence provided in the application to consider the way in which statelessness may have arisen. An understanding of the particular circumstances of the case will assist in making appropriate enquiries with relevant national authorities and in reaching an informed decision. A person may be stateless, or become stateless, because they have:

- never held a nationality and have always been stateless
- acquired and subsequently lost a nationality
- been denied a nationality by the national authorities of their country of former habitual residence despite providing evidence
- voluntarily renounced a nationality
- not registered for a nationality to which they are entitled having been born outside the country of their parents' nationality
- genuinely been unable to provide evidence that they are a national of their country of former habitual residence

**Exclusions** are set out in Rule 402 of Part 14. The ones that affect most applicants – are where they are:

- (c) receiving protection or assistance from UN agencies. This applies mainly to Palestinians who have been under the protection of UNRWA in Gaza, West Bank, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.
- (d) recognised by the competent authorities of the country of their former habitual residence as having the rights and obligations which are attached to the possession of the nationality of that country.
- (e) You need to at least reference the other 3 exclusion clauses (fault-based) but in fact the HO uses part 9 generally to refuse part 14 leave.

### 403. The requirements for leave to remain in the United Kingdom as a stateless person are that the applicant:

- has made a valid application
- is recognised as a stateless person by the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph 401
- has taken reasonable steps to facilitate admission to their country of former habitual residence or any other country but has been unable to secure the right of admission
- has obtained and submitted all reasonably available evidence
- has sought and failed to obtain or re-establish their nationality with the appropriate authorities of the relevant country
- if, in the case of a child born in the UK, has provided evidence that they have attempted to register their birth with the relevant authorities but have been refused.

The meaning of 'admission' in para 403 has been defined in UK case law **R(AZ) v SSHD (statelessness "admissible") [2021] UKUT 284 (IAC)**. It was determined that 'admissible' does not need to incorporate permanent residence. If a person will be admitted to a country where they can live, even if that means living without the normal rights of citizens and with no path to permanent residence, that can be enough to exclude them from Part 14 statelessness leave.

### Establish nationality

The wording is not aligned to the statelessness conventions, nor to UNHCR guidance. The correct wording, for good reason, is for a person to evidence whether or not they have acquired a nationality, or are recognised as a national by any state. This wording is unclear since 'establish' has no technical meaning in nationality law.

(...)

## Evidence

Part 14 requires an applicant to have ‘obtained all reasonably available evidence’ of their statelessness. Applicants will need to provide evidence of gather:

- Their own personal circumstances. This will include their immigration history, their family, their documentation, membership of a minority group, etc.
- The law and practice of the relevant country/countries.

An applicant is also required to show that they have ‘sought and failed to obtain or re-establish their nationality with the appropriate authorities of the relevant country’. This will include evidence that they have:

- Approached the relevant authorities (usually the Embassy or High Commission in the UK) to ask for recognition as a national.
- Done all they can to secure evidence of their lack of nationality. This can include writing to authorities, hospitals, schools and churches in their country of origin to seek confirmation of their residence.

## Part 14 statelessness leave

If an application is successful the applicant is granted 5 years leave to remain in the UK. They are given the right to work, to claim benefits and to access homelessness assistance and student loans. They also are given access to the NHS, however it should be noted that any debts accrued while the person did not have leave to remain are not wiped, unlike refugees.

At the end of the five years they can make a free application for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. If this application is successful they can apply for British citizenship after one year of holding indefinite leave and all other requirements for naturalisation are met.

## General grounds for refusal

A person can be refused if they fall under Part 9 of the immigration rules, general grounds for refusal. Under this provision they can be refused for reasons such as:

- A criminal record
- Making false representations in a previous application
- Previous breaches of immigration rules
- Debt to the NHS
- Rough sleeping

## Refusal of leave to remain

If the application is unsuccessful, the Home Office may provide reasons for refusal, such as a lack of evidence to prove statelessness, the applicant's eligibility to reside in another country, or national security concerns. There is no appeal against a refusal. An applicant can ask for Administrative Review if there has been a caseworking error. The only other remedy is Judicial Review.

## Leave outside the rules

A person can be recognised as stateless but still be refused leave to remain under Part 14, for instance if they have a criminal record with a sentence of over 12 months. In that case they may be granted discretionary leave outside the rules because they cannot be removed as ‘there is nowhere to remove them to’. See the Home Office [Stateless Guidance](#) [p.24, v3.0 of 1st November 2019].

(...)

## Asylum and statelessness leave

It is important to note that the UK's statelessness determination procedure is separate from the asylum process, and individuals must choose between applying for asylum or applying for leave to remain as a stateless person. An application for statelessness leave often requires an approach to an embassy in an attempt to evidence lack of nationality or admission to a person's country of origin. Such an approach could be interpreted as the person availing themselves of the protection of their government, which could result in an asylum claim being refused. Many people who apply for statelessness leave are failed asylum seekers.

The Home Office gives guidance to caseworkers on the use of COI in statelessness applications. It should be noted that the caseworkers do not always do this and it is much better to provide them with the domestic law where possible and explain why the applicant is not eligible for consideration as a national.

**"[...] You should undertake research into nationality and other relevant laws, including their implementation and the practices of the relevant state. [...]. Where further research is considered necessary, information should be obtained through the Country Policy and Information Team (CPIT) useful sources list, reliable news media or from databases such as UNHCR Refworld. The reliability of the information obtained must be carefully considered and evidence corroborated from other sources where possible. Any COI gathered through independent research must be fed back to CPIT."**<sup>31</sup>

## Burden and standard of proof in statelessness applications

The burden of proof generally rests with the applicant. Paragraph 403(d) requires an applicant to submit all reasonably available evidence to enable the Secretary of State to determine whether they are stateless and not admissible to another country. However, guidance also states that a caseworker 'must assist' if an applicant does not 'have the resources or knowledge to obtain information' [Stateless Guidance P14]. This can be by way of interviewing the applicant or undertaking relevant research. This is unusual in the immigration rules but it does not go as far as to genuinely share the burden of proof as a 'collaborative' procedure as suggested in the UNHCR Statelessness Handbook [para 89]. In practice case workers may well be reluctant to carry out their own investigations and should not be relied upon to do so.

The standard of proof required is the balance of probabilities, as confirmed in [AS \(Guinea\) v SSH \[2018\] EWCA Civ 2234](#). This does not tally with the UNHCR Handbook where the lower standard of proof – the 'reasonable degree of likelihood', which is used in deciding asylum cases – is recommended. The Home Office Guidance addresses the reasoning of the UNHCR but states that establishing the 'factual issues' of statelessness requires a higher standard of proof than that for asylum seekers who are evidencing a future fear of persecution.<sup>32</sup> The Home Office Guidance applies the civil standard to all the requirements of paragraph 403. Applicants therefore must gather as much evidence as possible that they have taken every reasonable measure to evidence lack of nationality and compliance with the requirements of paragraph 403.

<sup>31</sup>. UK Home Office, [Stateless Guidance](#), v3.0 of 1st November 2019, p.16

<sup>32</sup>. UK Home Office, [Stateless Guidance](#), v3.0 of 1st November 2019, p.15

(…)

**Judicial guidance:**

The decision of *AS (Guinea) v Secretary of State for the Home Department*<sup>33</sup> is an important United Kingdom case because it establishes the standard of proof to be applied in the UK in determining whether a person is stateless under art 1(1) of the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons ('1954 Convention').

57. "[...] A person claiming to be stateless must take all reasonably practicable steps to gather together and submit all documents and other materials which evidence his or her identity and residence in the state or states in issue, and which otherwise bear upon his or her nationality. The applicant ought also to apply for nationality of the state or states with which he or she has the closest connection. Generally, these are steps that can be taken without any risk. If, in the words of Elias LJ, the applicant comes up against a brick wall, then, depending on the reasons given, the adjudicator will decide whether the applicant has established statelessness, and will do so on the balance of probabilities. Of course, from time to time, there may be cases where it would not be reasonable to expect the applicant to take this course, and in those cases the Secretary of State will assist the applicant by making enquiries on his or her behalf but again there is no reason why the issue of statelessness cannot be decided on the balance of probabilities. [...]"

In *Pham* [2015] UKSC 19<sup>34</sup>, although not a para 403 case, it stands as the leading authority on the definition of statelessness in UK law and acknowledges:

38. "[...] In conclusion on issue (i), I would accept that the question arising under article 1(1) of the 1954 Convention in this case is not necessarily to be decided solely by reference to the text of the nationality legislation of the state in question, and that reference may also be made to the practice of the government, even if not subject to effective challenge in the courts. However, there is in my view no evidence of a decision made or practice adopted by the Vietnamese government, which treated the appellant as a non-national "by operation of its law", even adopting the broadest view of those words as interpreted by the UNHCR; nor in any event of one which was effective at the date of the Secretary of State's decision. The appeal under this ground must accordingly be dismissed."

**Proof of foreign law**

Traditionally, it's believed that proving foreign law necessitates expert testimony. However, the case law *KV (Sri Lanka)* [2018] EWCA Civ 2483 introduces a more adaptable stance. It indicates that in certain situations, particularly concerning Commonwealth countries employing common law, courts might interpret foreign legislation directly.

31."In English proceedings, matters of foreign law are treated as matters of fact which must be proved to the satisfaction of the court or tribunal. Traditionally, the general rule in court proceedings has been that this cannot be done simply by putting the text of a foreign enactment before the court or by citing foreign decisions or books of authority, but can only be done by adducing evidence from an expert witness. The reason generally given for this requirement is that, without the assistance of an expert witness, the court is not competent to interpret such materials: see e.g. Phipson on Evidence (18th Edn, 2013) para 33-75; Dicey Morris & Collins on The Conflict of Laws (15th Edn, 2012) vol 1, para 9-014. Sometimes this is undoubtedly true. When, for example, the foreign law in question derives from a system which does not share a common heritage with our own and is contained in sources written in a foreign language whose meaning and/or relationship to each other is not easy to understand, it would plainly be unsafe for an English judge to reach conclusions about the effect of the foreign law without expert assistance. But equally plainly, this is not always true. An English judge does not generally need expert assistance in order to understand and interpret an enactment or decision of a court of another English-speaking country whose law forms part of the common law. Decisions of such courts are frequently cited in the English courts and treated as persuasive authority on questions of English law with no suggestion that the court needs the aid of an expert witness in order to interpret such materials. There is no reason why the court should be any less competent to interpret such materials when they are relied on to prove the content of the foreign law concerned."

33. *EWCA Civ 2234 AS (Guinea) Appellant - and – Secretary of State for the Home Department Respondent - and – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Intervener*, [2018] EWCA Civ 2234, United Kingdom: Court of Appeal (England and Wales), 12 October 2018

34. *Pham v Secretary of State for the Home Department*, [2015] UKSC 19, United Kingdom: Supreme Court, 25 March 2015

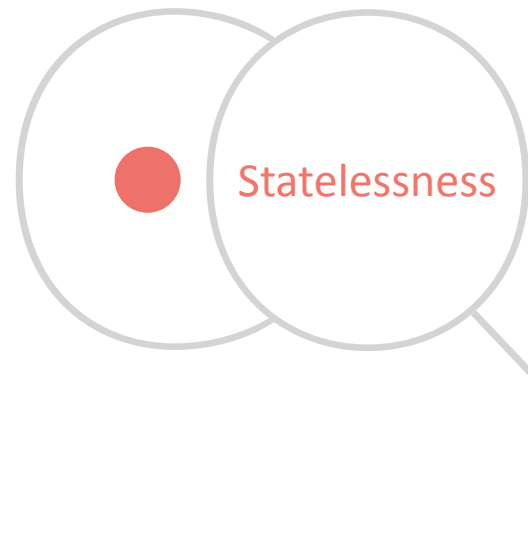
(...)

### What does this mean for COI research?

COI is essential when applying for statelessness status in the UK. COI helps the Home Office determine if an applicant meets the definition of a stateless person under the 1954 convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and whether they are eligible for leave to remain under Part 14 of the UK Immigration Rules.

In practical terms, this means that people conducting COI research should:

- Include an examination of the legal frameworks and protection mechanisms in place for stateless persons in the country of origin, as well as their effectiveness and accessibility.
- Understand the consequences of a stateless person being sent to a country they have no legal connection with: COI researchers should consider the specific challenges and risks that stateless persons or refugees may face upon return to their country of origin, including discrimination, arbitrary detention, forced conscription, or other human rights abuses. This information can help decision-makers assess the risk of refoulement, which is the forcible return of a person to a country where they may face persecution or other serious harm.
- Pay attention to specific vulnerable groups among stateless populations, such as women, children, and ethnic or religious minorities, who may face additional challenges due to their status.



## 4. Research strategy

The resource, "[Principles for Conducting Country of Origin Information Research on Statelessness](#)," was created based on the lessons we learned from conducting research on the subject of statelessness. They are meant to encourage COI researchers, legal counsel, and decision-makers to approach international protection applications involving stateless persons in a more comprehensive and knowledgeable manner, which, we hope, will improve the accessibility of high-quality COI research and well-informed decisions.

We have introduced you to some of the principles in sections 2 and 3 of the handbook:

- No single response to statelessness
- What the law says and what happens in practice

We will now discuss the remaining principles, and what they mean for our research strategy.

### 4.1 No single experience of statelessness

Stateless persons are not a homogenous group, which means that they do not share a uniform set of characteristics or experiences. The stateless population comprises individuals from diverse backgrounds, each with their unique histories, circumstances, and reasons for being stateless. This diversity is reflected in several aspects, such as:

- Race,
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Language
- Gender

**So, what is intersectionality then?** It is a term which is mentioned a lot but not always understood or engaged with properly. When we take an intersectional approach we are able to reach a more nuanced understanding of how intersecting factors and processes of power shape the risks, needs and experiences of individuals seeking international protection. This can be complicated though, and can give rise to a whole set of other considerations to take into account when developing our research strategy. For example, if we are researching the situation of stateless children, we will also need to be alert to child-specific rights and violations.

Intersectionality encourages an understanding of people as being shaped by the interaction of different aspects of their identity, such as race/ ethnicity, indigeneity, gender, class, sexuality, geography, age, migration status, religion etc. These interactions occur within specific contexts and structures of power.

Intersectional discrimination refers to a situation in which people are discriminated against on different grounds which, taken together, result in a level of prejudice or persecution that is higher than if these different grounds were considered separately.

(…)

Considering them separately would be additive discrimination. And both intersectional discrimination and additive discrimination can be seen as different kinds of multiple discrimination.

Here are some examples from the Lebanon report focusing on the intersections of stateless and sex, socioeconomic status, age, religion, and displacement:

### Gender:

**“Lebanon is one of the twenty five countries worldwide that do not allow women to confer nationality upon their children on an equal basis as men, and one of the approximately fifty countries that deny women the right to pass their nationality onto a foreign spouse [Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights]. This means that children and foreign spouses are at risk of statelessness, and are not afforded the same rights as Lebanese nationals, often having to rely on visas to remain in the country.”**

(Source: Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion: [“Stateless in a Global Pandemic”](#), June 2020, pg 22-23)

### Socio-economic status and age:

**“The educational experiences of children and youth have been profoundly impacted due to the socio-economic crises in Lebanon, as well as the constant shocks and stressors facing families, resulting in increased psychological and behavioural distress. [It is footnoted here that, “These findings are also reflected in a recent United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) study that indicates that in Lebanon, including in the Palestine refugee camps, financial hardship has impacted all areas of people’s lives, leading them to be more exhausted and stressed. See UNICEF July 2020. Underneath the Surface: Understanding the root causes of violence against children and women.”**

(Source: UNRWA, [“Syria, Lebanon and Jordan Emergency Appeal 2022”](#), 18 January 2022, p. 37)

### Religion:

**“Lebanon officially recognizes 18 religious communities, and the political system ensures that nearly all of these groups are represented, though not according to their actual shares of the population. Individuals who are not, or do not wish to be, affiliated with the recognized groups are effectively excluded. Moreover, the country’s large refugee population, including Palestinian refugee camp residents and Syrians who fled their country’s civil war, are not eligible to acquire citizenship and have no political rights.”**

(Source Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2021, Section B. Political Pluralism and Participation)

### Displacement:

**“Uncertainty regarding the number of stateless persons results from the very nature of statelessness and the lack of a census since 1932. The lack of data and difficulty to access available data contributes to perpetuating statelessness and to keeping stateless persons in Lebanon invisible and extremely marginalised. Also, insufficient priority is given to the implementation of measures to identify statelessness and protect the stateless. However, the stateless population in the country is understood to be increasing due to many families’ multigenerational statelessness, and increased displacement and migration.”**

(Source: The Collective for Research & Training on Development Action, The Nationality Campaign, Ruwad alHoukuk Frontiers Rights et al, [“Joint Submission to the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review”](#), July 2020, p. 4)

### What does this mean for COI research?

In practical terms, this means that people conducting COI research should:

- Consider using a variety of search terms and phases, such as "marginalised," "minority," and "displaced people," as the term "stateless" may not be used in the country of habitual residence.
- Put the information into context by mentioning the socioeconomic and political environment, as well as the governance and policy frameworks, as well as the cultural and societal values and norms.
- Demonstrate how a person's lack of a state can have an impact on other aspects of their identity and can result in social disadvantage, discrimination, or persecution.
- Take into consideration that this type of research will take more time than research on a single issue.

(...)

## 4.2 Terminology related to statelessness

Establishing the terminology that applies, who it refers to, and what it means is essential. A COI researcher should be aware of the context in which terminology is used because it can be used inconsistently in different contexts. Terms that are pertinent may be spoken in a language used in the nation of habitual residence.

Furthermore, this could refer to terms that convey statelessness in a general sense or terms with extremely specific meanings pertaining to the status of particular stateless groups in a particular geographic area, with (or without) specific documentation and with (or without) specific types of official recognition. Understanding these terms is essential for discussing and addressing the complex issue of statelessness, as it helps to clarify the legal, social, and political contexts in which stateless persons find themselves.

For example, the term "stateless person" may have different equivalents or interpretations in various languages, which could impact the way information is collected, analysed, and presented. Additionally, some countries may have unique terms or concepts related to nationality and citizenship that do not have direct translations or equivalents in English or other languages.

In the Arabic language, for instance, the term "stateless person" could be translated as:

اجنبي Ajnabi [ajnabiya = female; ajanib = plural]  
Literally 'Foreigner' in Arabic; ajanib al-Hassaka are a category of stateless Kurds from Hassaka Governorate in north-eastern Syria who are included in the official registries, but have been deprived of many rights.<sup>35</sup>

بدون جنسية (Bidun Jinsiya):

Meaning "without nationality," this term might be used more broadly to describe individuals who lack identification documents, regardless of their nationality status.

مقيم بلا جنسية (Muqem Bila Jinsiya):

This term translates to "resident without nationality" and can be used to describe stateless persons living in a country where they are not recognised as citizens.

مكتوم القيد ( Maktum Alqayd): This term means undocumented or unregistered, it is used to describe individuals without identity documents or legal existence regardless of their nationality.

لاجئ (Laji'): This term means 'refugee' and might be used to refer to both refugees and stateless persons, even though they are distinct legal categories.

Understanding these linguistic variations and nuances is essential for COI researchers working on statelessness, as it enables them to accurately interpret and communicate information in different languages and contexts.

It also helps them recognise potential inconsistencies or misunderstandings that may arise when working with sources or stakeholders from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

35. The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) and the European Network on Statelessness (ENS), From [Syria to Europe: Experiences of Stateless Kurds and Palestinian Refugees from Syria Seeking Protection in Europe](#), see p.9, January 2019

(...)

By being aware of these complexities, COI researchers can ensure that their work is both accurate and sensitive to the unique experiences and challenges faced by stateless persons and other affected individuals around the world.

### What does this mean for COI research?

People conducting COI research should:

- Develop an understanding of relevant terminology, including the word(s) used to describe statelessness in the country of habitual residence, the designations of different stateless groups in relevant languages and the meanings that these terms carry
  - Use specific terminology designating the relevant stateless group(s) in information searches
  - Carefully examine the information found to ensure its relevance to the specific research focus on statelessness
  - Set out the relevant terminology clearly in reports
  - Recognise and acknowledge the limits of terminology in a particular context, and that many people may be stateless or at risk of statelessness even in the absence of relevant terminology
  - Work with individuals who speak the local language to find out if there are any particular local terms that come close to translating.
- Below is a list of terms and phrases relating to statelessness that can help COI researchers to explore the broader contexts, underlying causes, and consequences of statelessness or identify indirect connections to the issue:
- **Stateless person:** A person who is not considered a national by any state under the operation of its law, as defined by the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.
  - **De jure statelessness:** A situation where an individual is legally not recognised as a citizen by any country under the operation of its law.
  - **De facto statelessness:** A situation where an individual, although holding a formal nationality, cannot enjoy the rights and benefits associated with citizenship due to practical or administrative obstacles.
  - **Nationality:** The legal bond between an individual and a state, typically acquired at birth or through naturalisation, and entitling the individual to the protection, rights, and privileges granted by the state.
  - **Citizenship:** The status of being a legal member of a particular country, often used interchangeably with nationality.
  - **Birthright citizenship:** A principle granting citizenship to individuals based on their place of birth (*jus soli*) or their parents' nationality (*jus sanguinis*).
  - **Naturalisation:** The process through which a person acquires citizenship in a country other than the one they were born in, typically by meeting certain legal requirements, such as residency, language proficiency, and knowledge of the country's history and culture.
  - **Denaturalisation:** The revocation of an individual's citizenship, usually as a result of fraud, criminal activity, or disloyalty to the state.

(…)

- **State succession:** The process through which a new state is created or an existing state undergoes significant changes in its territory or governance, which may lead to statelessness if nationality laws are not adequately addressed.
- **Undocumented nationals:**<sup>36</sup> People who are nationals of a country in principle but lack the identity documents to prove it.
- **Displaced person:** An individual who has been forced to leave their home or place of habitual residence due to armed conflict, persecution, or natural disasters but has not crossed an international border.
- **Refugee:** A person who has fled their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion and is unable or unwilling to return.
- **Asylum seeker:** An individual who has left their country of origin and seeks international protection in another country but has not yet been granted refugee status.
- **Stateless determination procedure (SDP):** A legal process through which a person's statelessness is assessed and recognised, potentially granting them legal status and protection.

When researching statelessness, using specific keywords, either individually or in combination, can help to find relevant information and resources. Non-exhaustive examples of English words to convey different understandings of “stateless” could include:

#### Individual keywords:

1954 Convention, 1961 Convention, Stateless\*, De jure statelessness, De facto statelessness, Undocumented, Nationality-less. Legal limbo, Disenfranchised, Birthright citizenship, Naturalisation, Denaturalisation, Stateless determination

#### Keyword combinations/strings:

Stateless persons' rights, Statelessness and human rights, Stateless children, De facto statelessness and documentation, Legal protection for stateless persons, Stateless refugees, Birthright citizenship and statelessness, State succession and statelessness, Stateless determination procedures, Nationality laws and statelessness, Statelessness reduction measures, Discrimination and statelessness

Including search terms or 'buzz words' that are not directly statelessness-specific can help researchers to uncover information on broader contexts or related issues that might be connected to statelessness.

Here are some examples of such terms:

Marginalised communities, Displaced persons, Forced migration, Irregular migrants, Stateless-like situations, Human trafficking, Social exclusion, Legal identity, Access to citizenship, Birth registration

Nationality law reform, Stateless minorities, State succession, Internally displaced persons (IDPs), Arbitrary detention, Refugees and asylum seekers, Gender discrimination in nationality laws, Right to nationality, Stateless populations in conflict zones, Durable solutions for stateless persons.

36. Hunter, W. (2019). *Undocumented Nationals: Between Statelessness and Citizenship (Elements in the Politics of Development)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

(…)

### 4.3 ‘In our own words’<sup>37</sup>: including the voices of people with lived experience

Stateless persons face unique challenges and possess valuable insights into their experiences, which can be beneficial for COI researchers, legal representatives, and decision-makers in understanding the complexities of statelessness. However, as highlighted in section 2.1 of this handbook their voices are often silenced, misrepresented, or ignored due to various reasons, resulting in a lack of firsthand knowledge and information.

**“The needs of the stateless person are being excluded. They are not being heard adequately, if at all.”**

– Sirazul Islam, Youth Director of British Rohingya Community UK (BRC)<sup>38</sup>

Lack of legal recognition contributes to these issues, stateless persons are not recognised as nationals by any state, which often leaves them without legal protection and access to basic rights. This situation can make it difficult for them to speak up, advocate for their rights, or share their experiences without fear of reprisal or negative consequences.

Another factor is access to information and communication. Many stateless persons live in precarious situations or face restrictions on their freedom of movement, limiting their access to information, communication tools, or platforms where they can share their experiences.

The lack of visibility and voice of stateless persons, while not universal in any context, is reflected throughout the international protection framework.

Actors within the international protection process, including legal representatives, COI researchers and decision-makers, may have a limited understanding of or exposure to the experiences of stateless persons.

This is compounded by limited or inaccurate reporting of stateless-related issues in local, national, and international media and other sources.

In this [ENS video](#) Omar Othman (Founder of The Palestinian Youth League and ENS Changemaker) stresses the need for lived experience in advocating for change.

#### What does this mean for COI research?

The lack of visibility of stateless persons presents challenges to COI researchers that need to be addressed in several ways:

- Engage with stateless persons directly to gain firsthand accounts of their experiences. This can include interviews, consultations and surveys. Always ensure that the engagement is conducted safely and ethically, with informed consent and respect for participants' privacy.
- Collaborate with organisations working with stateless persons, such as the [Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion \(ISI\)](#), [European Network on Statelessness \(ENS\)](#), [UNHCR](#) and other UN agencies, and local community groups, to gain access to information and perspectives that may not be readily available in public sources. These organisations can provide valuable insights and help connect researchers with stateless individuals willing to share their experiences.
- Promote the inclusion of stateless persons in research and decision-making processes, ensuring that their voices are heard and respected.

By following these practical steps, COI researchers can effectively incorporate the experiences and perspectives of stateless persons into their research, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the situation in the country of origin and informing better decision-making processes for statelessness applications and asylum claims.

<sup>37</sup>. This quote comes from an ENS video, titled ‘[In our own words: The ENS Community Group](#)’. 13 March 2023

<sup>38</sup>. This quote comes from an ENS video, titled ‘[Ending statelessness is possible, but we cannot do it without the people affected by it](#)’. 16 September 2020

## 5. Appendices

### 5.1 Topic Guide

The following topic guide is specifically regarding Palestinians as it is based on our terms of reference for the Country report, [Lebanon: Stateless Palestinians](#) but can be a useful case study. The guide adopts an intersectional approach to statelessness and aims to cover all the issues that may be relevant to a stateless person with status application. It will be a useful starting point for COI research undertaken for specific cases. Researchers should select and adapt the topics that are relevant to their research questions and the facts of the case, bearing in mind the guidance given in this handbook.

#### Groups

Based on their legal status and registration with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Palestinian refugees in Lebanon can be categorised into four groups:

a.	b.	c.	d.
“Registered” refugees (“Palestine refugees”), which are registered with UNRWA and the Lebanese authorities;	“Non-registered” Palestinian refugees, which are not registered with UNRWA, but are registered with the Lebanese authorities;	“Non-ID” Palestinian refugees, who are neither registered with UNRWA nor with the Lebanese authorities;	Palestine refugees from Syria entered Lebanon after 2011.

## UNRWA's mandate

### 1. Legal and policy frameworks and implementation

#### In Lebanon in general:

- 1.1 What are the ways in which nationality is acquired and lost in Lebanon?
- 1.2 Does the legislation require that nationals hold proof of nationality or documents that help to prove an entitlement to nationality? Does the legislation, policy or administrative framework set out the process for acquiring such documentation?
- 1.2 Does the legislation comply with key international standards?  
Article 1 of the 1954 Convention; Articles 1, 2 and 4 of the 1961 Convention; Articles 7 and 8 of the CRC and Article 24 of the ICCPR; Articles 9(1) and 9(2) of the CEDAW; Articles 2 and 5 of the CERD and Article 2 of the ICCPR?; Article 18 of the CRPD; Article 9 of the 1961 Convention;
- 1.3. Is Lebanon a party to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions? Any reservations?
- 1.4 Does the legislation establish a statelessness determination procedure? Article 32 of the 1954 Convention?

#### In relation to Palestinians specifically:

- 1.5. What principal legislation exists in relation to Palestinians (nationality and statelessness) in Lebanon?
- 1.6. What rights to a nationality do the children of stateless Palestinian parents have?

### 2. Documentation and Freedom of movement

#### Documentation:

- 2.1. What are the types of documentation provided (or not provided) by the Lebanese state and by UNRWA to different categories of stateless Palestinians?
- 2.2. Can stateless Palestinians legally and practically obtain documents such as ID, birth/marriage/death registrations and travel documents?
- 2.3. If not, why?

#### Freedom of movements:

- 2.4. Do stateless Palestinians have freedom of movement in Lebanon?
- 2.5 What are the legal and practical challenges to moving freely for stateless Palestinians within the country? ie. What do travel documents entitle people to specifically?
- 2.6. How do checkpoints affect stateless Palestinians' free movement?
- 2.7. Are stateless Palestinians free to leave Lebanon on a temporary or permanent basis?
- 2.8. What treatment would stateless Palestinians face upon return to Lebanon after a period of exile?

### 3. Access to state and/or UNRWA services

#### Access to Health:

- 3.1. Are legislative and other provisions in place to ensure the provision of equal access to health services for stateless Palestinians?
- 3.2. Is there evidence that stateless Palestinians have difficulties accessing health care?
- 3.3. What are the reasons for difficulties accessing health care?
- 3.4. How has Covid 19 impacted equal access to healthcare?
- 3.5. Are steps taken by stateless Palestinians to ensure their health needs are met? Are these successful?
- 3.6. Is there evidence that certain groups of stateless Palestinians have more difficulties accessing healthcare than others?
- 3.7. Are measures in place to train doctors and other health workers on equal rights for all?
- 3.8. Does the State monitor and review equal access to health treatment for stateless persons?

#### Child protection:

- 3.9. Are child protection/social services available to Stateless Palestinians, who is it provided by (state/non-state) and what assistance do they provide?
- 3.10. Are child protection/social services available and accessible to Stateless Palestinians in all regions of the country?
- 3.11. Are there any obstacles for Stateless Palestinians in accessing social services/child protection services?
- 3.12. What alternative care is available for children who cannot live with their family? And is it accessible and adequate for stateless Palestinian children?
- 3.13. What happens to stateless Palestinian children in alternative care arrangements when they turn 18?
- 3.14. How has Covid 19 impacted equal access to child protection?

#### Access to Education:

- 3.15. What does the law say with regards to the education of stateless children and young people? I.e. Are they entitled to education on an equal basis with other children/young people? Are they viewed within the legislation as uneducable or provisions are made for segregated education.
- 3.16. Do stateless Palestinian children have access to education? If not, what are the obstacles they face?
- 3.17. How visible are stateless children and young people in schools and other places of education?
- 3.18. Is there disaggregated data on the number of stateless children and young people [i.e. tertiary education] in receipt of 'education'?
- 3.19. Is there disaggregated data on the retention of stateless children and young people within education and their outcomes?
- 3.20. Is the education of stateless children and young people free? At what level of education?
- 3.21. Are there reports/evidence of additional practical challenges for certain groups of stateless Palestinian children and young people more than others? For example, on the basis of gender, class, religion or disability?
- 3.22. How has Covid 19 impacted equal access to education?

### Access to Employment:

- 3.22. What does the law say with regards to stateless Palestinians seeking employment? I.e. Do they have the right to work on an equal basis with Lebanese citizens?
- 3.23. Do stateless Palestinian have access to the labour market? If not, what are the obstacles they face?
- 3.24. How visible are stateless Palestinians in the workforce?
- 3.25. Is there disaggregated data on the number of stateless Palestinians on the labour market?
- 3.26. Is there disaggregated data on the retention of stateless Palestinians within the labour market?
- 3.27. Are steps taken to ensure that stateless Palestinians can enter the labour market? Are these successful?
- 3.28. Are there reports/evidence of additional practical challenges to employment for stateless Palestinians more than others? For example, on the basis of gender, class, religion or disability?
- 3.29. How has Covid 19 impacted equal access to employment?

### Access to land:

- 3.30. What does Lebanese law say with regards to stateless Palestinians seeking to acquire land/own properties? I.e. Do they have the right to property on an equal basis with Lebanese citizens?
- 3.31. Do stateless Palestinian have access to the land/estate market? If not, what are the obstacles they face?
- 3.32. Is there disaggregated data on the number of stateless Palestinians owning land in Lebanon?
- 3.33. Are steps taken to ensure that stateless Palestinians can access property? Are these successful?

## 4. State attitudes, states discrimination and availability of protection

### Visibility:

- 4.1. Does the state keep official and current statistics of stateless Palestinians on its territory?
- 4.2. Public statements by government officials regarding stateless Palestinians
- 4.3. Portrayal of stateless Palestinians in state-owned media

### Arrests and detention:

- 4.4. Are stateless Palestinians particularly exposed to violence by state actors?
- 4.5. Are stateless Palestinians vulnerable to arbitrary arrest and detention by the Lebanese authorities? If they are, how are they treated in detention and what are the conditions in detention facilities?

## State protection:

- 4.6. Do stateless Palestinians report complaints to the Police? If not, why not?
- 4.7. Do State authorities register complaints of discrimination, human rights violations, violence etc made by or on behalf of stateless Palestinians? Is support provided when complaints are made?
- 4.8. Are Police complaints followed through? Is an investigation started;
- 4.9. Is there a difference between the availability of state protection for camp-based and non-camp-based Palestine refugee camps?
- 4.10. Have there been prosecutions and convictions of people who have targeted Palestinian stateless persons?
- 4.11. Are there practical examples of legislation or policy being used to protect stateless Palestinians from State authorities?
- 4.12. What consequences do state authorities face for discriminatory, humiliating, violent and exclusive actions towards stateless Palestinians?

## 5. Treatment by society (including families, communities and other non-state actors)

### Societal discrimination:

- 5.1. How do media portray stateless Palestinians?
- 5.2. Are there reports/evidence about families or communities discriminating against certain groups of stateless Palestinians more than others? For example, on the basis of gender, class, religion, perceived westernisation or disability?
- 5.3. Does registration of stateless Palestinians with UNRWA lead to discrimination within the family (for example registered children discriminated by Lebanese family members) or within local communities?
- 5.4. How visible are stateless Palestinians to the Lebanese authorities?

### Exploitation and other types of harm:

- 5.5. Are stateless Palestinians disproportionately affected by exploitation and other types of harm such as physical violence, sexual abuse etc?
- 5.6. Are stateless Palestinians disproportionately affected by human trafficking?

## 6. Treatment of specific groups among stateless Palestinians

### Women:

- 6.1. Are there any reported instances of violence against stateless Palestinian women?
- 6.2. What is the situation of stateless Palestinian single mothers without male support?
- 6.3. What is the situation of stateless unmarried/single Palestinian women without male support?
- 6.4. Do stateless Palestinian women have access to women's shelters and what is their situation like (i.e. capacity, length, security, support)?

### **Persons with Disabilities (Including but not limited to mental, physical, psychosocial, and intellectual):**

- 6.5. What measures ensure that documentation can be obtained, possessed and utilised by persons with disabilities?
- 6.6. What measures are taken to ensure that Palestinians with disabilities are not deprived of their nationality arbitrarily or on the basis of disability?
- 6.7. Are there reported instances of stigma, discrimination, harassment and/or violence towards stateless Palestinians with disabilities by Lebanese state actors or the local community?
- 6.8. Are there statistics recorded on the incidence of stateless Palestinians with disabilities and the form of disability?
- 6.9. What is the extent and situation of stateless Palestinians with disabilities in institutions?

### **LGBTQI+ people:**

- 6.10. Are there any reported instances of violence against stateless LGBTQI Palestinians?

### **People with criminal convictions:**

- 6.11. Is there any additional penalty eg. deportation for stateless Palestinians who committed offences, in Lebanon or outside of Lebanon?
- 7. Political Participation and Protests
  - 7.1. Are stateless Palestinians permitted to hold a political office in Lebanon?
  - 7.2. Are there any restrictions towards advocacy and/or protests relating to statelessness in Lebanon?

## 5.2 Guide to sources

N.B: This is a non-exhaustive overview of stateless-specific sources of information.

### International organisations

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – UN Women

United Nations Secretary-General reports

Council of Europe

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Food Programme (WFP)

### NGOs and think tanks

European Network on Statelessness (ENS)

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI)

Equal Rights Trust

Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness

Electronic Immigration Network

Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights (BADIL)

Canadian Centre on Statelessness

International Detention Coalition (IDC)

Swedish Organization Against Statelessness (SOAS)

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)

Forced Migration review (FMR)

The Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH)

Human Rights Watch

Refugees International

Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights

United Stateless

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Refugees International

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR)

Asylum Access

Minority Rights Group International (MRG)

MENA Statelessness Platform

Free Movement

### COI databases and government bodies

Danish Immigration Service

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

UK Home Office

The Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre Landinfo

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

US Department of State (USDOS)

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Finnish Immigration Services (FIS)

ARC Foundation

European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi)

Refworld

ReliefWeb

European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)

### Academic and closed access

(Please note that some of these journals may require a subscription or payment to access their content).

Statelessness and Citizenship Review

Journal on Migration and Human Security

International Journal of Refugee Law

Refugee Survey Quarterly

Forced Migration Review

## 5.3 Regional and additional resources

For further information about statelessness in specific regions, the websites of the following organisations and initiatives contain helpful information and resources:

### International

[Refworld](#)

[Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights](#)

[The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion](#)

[The Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness at the University of Melbourne](#)

[OHCHR and the right to a nationality](#)

### Africa

[Citizenship Rights in Africa Initiative](#)

### The Americas

[The Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness](#)

[United Stateless](#)

### Asia Pacific

[The Statelessness Network Asia Pacific](#)

[Nationality for All](#)

### Europe

[European Network on Statelessness](#)

[Asylum Aid](#)

[Council of Europe](#)

[European Union Agency for Asylum \(EUAA\) - Statelessness in the asylum context](#)

### Middle East and North Africa

[Hawiati MENA Statelessness Network](#)

[MENA Statelessness Platform](#)

## Notes