

UNICEF



Topic A: Decalogue to Guarantee the International Protection of Stateless Children

Nationality represents the legal bond between a state and an individual, it is recognized by the United Nations as a fundamental human right. It provides individuals with identity and a variety of rights. In recent years, there has been a troubling increase in the number of stateless children, who are not recognized as citizens by any country. Resulting in severely restricted access to education, healthcare, and other basic human rights and services.

According to UNICEF, one in four children under the age of five are not registered at birth and 237 million children worldwide currently lack a birth certificate, placing them at risk of statelessness.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), identifies several primary causes of stateless births, including:

- Lack of birth registration and birth certificates
- Birth to stateless parents
- Political change and transfer of territory
- Targeted discrimination against minorities

In 2020 the countries registered with the most stateless children were: Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kuwait, Myanmar, Russia, Syria, Thailand, and Zimbabwe. Every ten minutes a stateless child is born which leads to more than 70,000 births per year.

Nowadays, many organizations work to solve the issue and similar topics related, such as the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), the main global organization dedicated to helping and protecting refugees and people that are or may be at risk to become stateless, works in verifying that the human rights of stateless people are respected.

Another one is UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), that works to create a world in which children's rights are assured by working with its global authority to influence decision-makers. UNICEF is unique between other world organizations and amongst others working with young people.



The debate will be followed by these questions:

- 1) To which situation do we refer when we talk about stateless children?
- 2) Why is it that states have no obligation to protect stateless children?
- 3) What are the main reasons stateless children exist?
- 4) What is the main organization that protects stateless children and what are some actions they are nowadays taking?
- 5) Explain some consequences stateless children suffer.
- 6) What circumstances define the way of living of stateless children?
- 7) How does a country manage to identify children as part of their country?
- 8) How can it be prevented?
- 9) What actions are currently undergoing the issue?
- 10) What consequences do stateless children face as a result of their status?

<https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/stateless-people>

<https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/the-urgent-need-to-end-childhood-statelessness/>

<https://www.humanium.org/en/stateless-invisible/>

[https://www.state.gov/other-policy-](https://www.state.gov/other-policy-issues/statelessness/#:~:text=The%20following%20are%20some%20common,the%20former%20state(s)%3B)

[issues/statelessness/#:~:text=The%20following%20are%20some%20common,the%20former%20state\(s\)%3B](https://www.state.gov/other-policy-issues/statelessness/#:~:text=The%20following%20are%20some%20common,the%20former%20state(s)%3B)



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