



European
Network on
Statelessness

European Network on Statelessness Campaign

“None of Europe’s Children should be Stateless”

The United Nations estimates that a child is born stateless, somewhere in the world, every ten minutes. States are failing to fulfil the right of every child to acquire a nationality – a fundamental children’s right, laid down in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In this region too, statelessness continues to arise because European states are failing to ensure that all children born within Europe’s borders or to European citizen parents acquire a nationality. For those affected, statelessness can mean lack of access to other rights and services, denied opportunities, unfulfilled potential and a sense of never quite belonging. It brings hardship and anguish to children and their parents alike.

The [European Network on Statelessness](#) (ENS) is campaigning for an end to childhood statelessness in Europe. This goal is also central to the #ibelong campaign, spearheaded by UNHCR, to end all statelessness globally by 2024. To realise children’s right to a nationality in Europe, the phenomenon and the challenges need to be better understood. Different stakeholders must also unite to identify and share good practices so that these challenges can be addressed.

Comparative research and evidence-based advocacy is a central activity of the ENS campaign “[None of Europe’s Children should be Stateless](#)” which was launched on International Children’s Day on 20th November 2014. ENS has secured funding to undertake initial research in eight European countries – Albania, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Macedonia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia. This research will study the presence/absence, content and implementation of legislative safeguards for the prevention of childhood statelessness at the national level in these countries. The research findings will be presented at a regional conference on children’s right to nationality in June 2015 and should feed into both national and regional-level advocacy aimed to improve access to nationality for stateless children.

The European Network on Statelessness is a network of NGOs, academic initiatives and individual experts committed to addressing statelessness in Europe – currently with over 90 members in 30 European countries. ENS carries out its work through a range of law & policy, awareness-raising and capacity-building activities. The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion is an expert partner for the ENS campaign “None of Europe’s Children Should be Stateless”.

For further information about ENS and its activities contact ENS Director Chris Nash at chris.nash@statelessness.eu or visit www.statelessness.eu