



## Improving the identification of statelessness in asylum registration and screening

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European  
Network on  
Statelessness

◀ STATELESS  
JOURNEYS ▶



**“It’s simply inhumane to let people get stuck in a limbo for years [...] just because the asylum system has gaps.”**

Lynn

# EXPLORE THE ISSUE & HOW WE CAN FIX IT

## Children's rights to a nationality

Improving children's access to nationality and preventing statelessness

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## Birth registration

Improving children's access to nationality and preventing statelessness

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## Asylum registration and screening

Improving the identification of statelessness on arrival

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## Detention and return

Protecting stateless people from arbitrary detention



## Family reunification

Ensuring stateless people can be reunited with family members

## Naturalisation and integration

Improving stateless people's access to naturalisation and integration





The failure to identify statelessness and protect stateless people can put people at risk and cause serious human rights violations.

- Stateless people from war-torn countries like Syria, Ukraine or Myanmar, who cannot prove where they are from may be pushed back to danger.
- Stateless people may be unlawfully detained for long periods for the purposes of identification and removal, which is not possible because they are not nationals of any country of removal.
- Stateless people who are not offered protection may be pushed into exploitative situations to survive, including modern slavery.

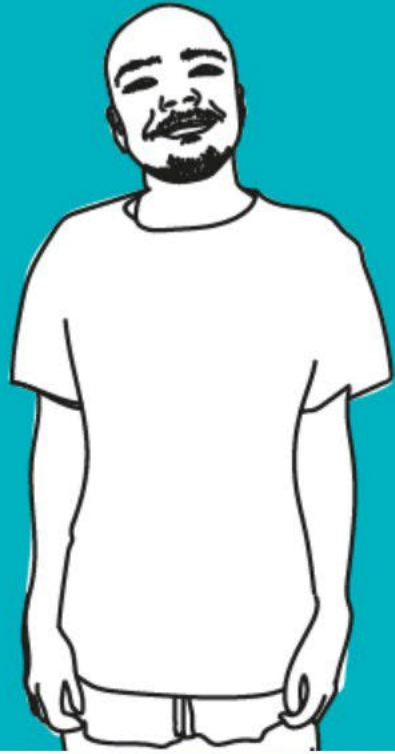
**‘The Greek police didn’t know  
that there were Palestinian  
Refugees in Syria....**

**[They] did not permit me to  
cross the border into  
Macedonia like other Syrians  
travelling to northern Europe.  
They were holding me at the  
border and not letting me  
cross, saying “Syrians only”**



## What needs to change at the policy level?

- Harmonise procedures to identify and record statelessness.
- Establish statelessness determination procedures in line with good practice and international norms.
- Give interpreters, cultural mediators, lawyers, civil society organisations and community groups unhindered access to people at registration and border crossing points.
- Frontline officials must receive training and tools to give them an understanding of statelessness and nationality problems.



**“It could have happened to anyone. It could have happened to you. It is also your problem.”**

Pavel



# WEBINAR: Improving identification of statelessness in asylum registration and screening

**Sebastien Revoy - EUAA**

08 March 2023





# European Union Agency for Asylum

## Mission

Supporting Member States in applying the package of EU laws that governs asylum, international protection and reception conditions, known as the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Acting as a resource for Member States in the field of international protection providing practical, legal, technical, advisory and operational assistance.

## Vision

To reach a situation where the asylum practices in all EU+ Member States are harmonised in line with EU obligations, meaning that an application of an individual in any of the EU+ Member States will always enjoy the same rights, obligations and reception conditions.



### Support

for Member States and stakeholders



### Responsibility

towards those in need of protection, in line with the values the EU is founded upon



### Expertise

in the rules and legal obligations which form the Common European Asylum System (CEAS);



### Responsiveness

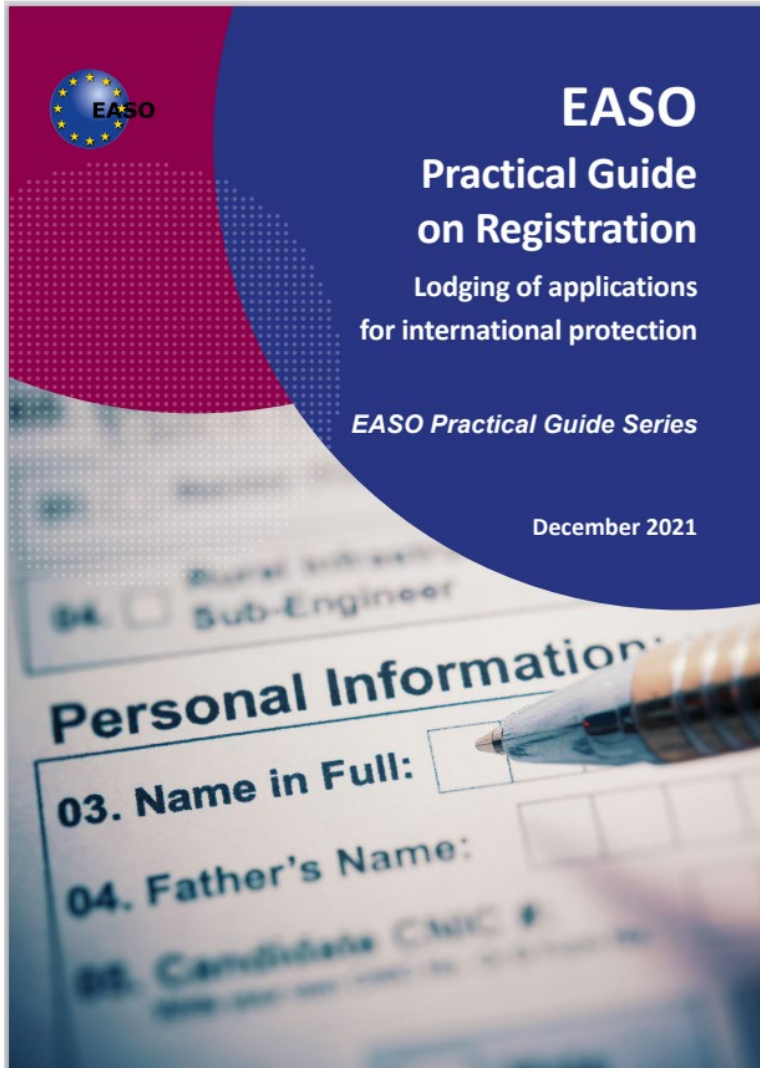
to the challenges and changing needs of Member States in properly managing asylum and reception services



### Resilience

of a future-proof European area of international protection which is able to adapt without sacrificing respect for human rights and protection

# EUAA Practical Guide on Registration



- I. Three stages of access to the asylum procedure
- II. Registration environment
- III. Information provision
- IV. Collection of registration data
- V. Identification and referral
- VI. Document certifying status as an applicant for international protection
- VII. Registration of subsequent applications
- VIII. Verification of data
- IX. Importance of registration data for the examination stage

<https://euaa.europa.eu/publications/practical-guide-registration>

# Core role of the Registration Officer



- **Provide information to the applicant**
- **Collect information from the applicant**
- **Identify and refer applicants to appropriate procedures/ services, e.g. potential vulnerable applicants, potential Dublin cases, potential stateless persons**

# Indications of statelessness



- **Statelessness is often not easy to identify**
  
- **People at risk of statelessness may include, e.g.**
  - people from border regions where a lack of civil registration may lead to confusion regarding nationality
  - minorities & those who have (perceived or actual) ties with another state
  - nomadic populations
  - populations with complex histories of displacement.
  
- **Commonly encountered profiles (the European context):**
  - Palestinians from countries in the Middle East and North Africa
  - Kurdish populations from Syria and Iraq
  - the Bidoon from Kuwait and Iraq
  - the Rohingya people from Myanmar
  - Somalis from Ethiopia

# Registration of stateless people and people at risk of being stateless

**Importance to identify stateless persons as early as possible in order to:**

- grant the protection they need as stateless persons and
- assess their claim for international protection

**Guidance to Registration officers:**

- Record information on nationality for all applicants and their family members.
- In case of **objective information** confirming the statelessness > record the applicant as stateless (or claimed/presumed stateless),
- If the applicant is **unaware or unsure of their nationality** > record that the applicant could be stateless or is at risk of statelessness.
  - > Refer the case to appropriate procedures

# Non-exhaustive list of questions



## *Nationality status*

- What do you consider to be your nationality?  
Have you previously held any or another nationality?  
What are the nationalities of your parents?  
Please describe the reasons why you are unsure of your nationality.  
Have you ever had any identity documents, such as a passport, national card or registration card?
- Have you ever tried to gain an identity document of any country?
  - If you needed to provide a document to the authorities of who you are, what kind of document would you show or try to obtain?

## *Place of birth*

- Where were you born?  
Was your birth registered?  
Do you have a birth certificate?  
Where were your parents born?

## *Country of former habitual residence*

- In which countries did you live before arriving in Europe?
- When did you live in each of these places?
  - What was the reason for moving to that country?
  - Were you registered with the authorities in that country?
  - Did you hold a residence permit?
  - What kind of accommodation did you live in?
  - With whom did you live in that country?
  - What were your means of income in that country?
  - Did you or any of your family members go to school in that country?
  - In the case of a marriage or birth in that country, were you able to register the marriage or birth in that country?
  - Did you do any other activities in that country?



**Support is our mission**

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