

# Terms of Reference for Community Advisory Board for the project *‘Strengthening capacity of NGOs and local governments to identify and address statelessness in the refugee/migration context’*

October 2024

## 1. About the European Network on Statelessness (ENS)

ENS is a civil society alliance of organisations and individuals working to promote the right to a nationality in Europe. Our network brings together over 180 members in more than 40 countries and includes grassroots community organisations, national and international NGOs, legal advice agencies, think tanks, individuals with lived experience of statelessness, and other experts. For more information about our work, see our [website](#) and our current [Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#).

## 2. About the Project

ENS has secured funding from the US State Department Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) for a two-year project with the goal of strengthening capacity of frontline actors in Europe and Central Asia to identify and address statelessness in the refugee/migration context and globally exchange learning and tools for improved identification of statelessness with other regions of the world.

Stateless migrants and refugees can face [significant challenges](#) accessing protection, limiting their access to fundamental rights and essential services. Through this project, ENS, alongside its partners, will develop, adapt, and disseminate country-specific toolkits, which will serve as comprehensive guides for practitioners – such as NGOs, legal professionals, and government agencies – to identify stateless individuals, refer them to appropriate legal pathways, and advocate for improved access to protection.

The project objectives are:

1. **Legal pathways to protection for stateless refugees and migrants in Europe** are improved as a result of frontline practitioners being better equipped to identify statelessness and signpost or refer to appropriate procedures
2. **Frontline practitioners in Central Asia are better equipped** to identify stateless refugees and migrants and signpost or refer them to appropriate legal pathways to protection
3. **Key stakeholders in different regions of the world have access to knowledge, learning, strategies, and tools** to improve the identification of statelessness and legal pathways to protection for stateless refugees and migrants globally

To achieve these objectives, the project will undertake a series of activities, including:

**Rolling out more identification toolkits adapted to different national and regional contexts:**

- Our [toolkit to identify and address statelessness](#), originally developed and piloted with our members in five European countries, will be evaluated and rolled out to five more European countries in collaboration with ENS members. The toolkit template will be adapted to reflect the unique social, legal and migratory context of each country. In parallel, we will work with our sister network, the Central Asian Network on Statelessness, to adapt and pilot a toolkit for the Central Asia region.

**Carrying out targeted advocacy and capacity building activities:**

- To help implement the toolkits and increase their impact, we will carry out targeted advocacy activities at regional level to improve legal and policy frameworks for the identification of statelessness and access to legal protection over the course of the project. This will include monitoring and influencing implementation of the new EU Pact on Migration & Asylum, which introduces new provisions on statelessness into EU law. We will also support our members to carry out advocacy and capacity-building activities towards national authorities.

**Developing global and trans-regional capacity-building initiatives:**

- We will develop initiatives to facilitate access to knowledge, learning, strategies and tools to improve the identification of statelessness and legal pathways to protection for stateless individuals. Under the project, we will host an international conference in Istanbul to share and exchange learning with key stakeholders, foster trans-regional collaboration, and galvanize concrete action towards improving the identification and legal protection of stateless migrants and refugees globally.

### **3. About the Community Advisory Board**

**Purpose:**

One of our Strategic Goals is that ‘People with lived experience of statelessness and their communities can claim power as leaders of change’. We are committed to facilitating spaces for stateless people and other stakeholders to come together, collaborate, and jointly lead and inform our work.

As such, we are seeking to establish a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to play a crucial role in shaping and delivering this project. The purpose of the CAB is to improve the project's accountability to affected populations and strengthen its impact. CAB members will be appointed for the duration of the project and will provide guidance on project activities, contribute to monitoring and evaluation, and help ensure that project outputs meet the needs of stateless people and their communities.

## **Key Responsibilities:**

### **Community Advisory Board members will be expected to:**

- Actively participate in bi-annual meetings online
- Review and comment in writing and orally at meetings on project outputs
- Contribute to the planning and delivery of the international conference in Istanbul (September 2025)
- Support monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities
- Share their expertise to improve project impact

### **Profile of Community Advisory Board Members:**

We are seeking (up to) six individuals to join the CAB. Applications will be reviewed against the following criteria:

#### ***Essential:***

- Lived experience of statelessness and/or embedded in and representing a community affected by statelessness
- Demonstrable expertise (lived and/or learned) on statelessness in a refugee/migration context
- Demonstrable interest in and commitment to improving identification of statelessness and routes to protection for stateless migrants/refugees
- Availability to participate in four Board meetings over the course of the two-year period (approximately half a day for each meeting plus preparation time), to review and comment on project materials in between meetings, and to participate in the Istanbul Conference (see 3.4 Term and Commitment)
- Ability to communicate in English (speaking, reading, writing, understanding)

#### ***Desirable:***

- Experience working (either voluntary or employed) with a civil society organisation, and/or as a frontline service provider/lawyer Practical experience of procedures to identify statelessness/nationality in a migratory context
- Understanding of monitoring, evaluation, and learning methodologies
- Previous involvement in a project advisory or governance role

### **Term and Commitment:**

- Two-year term (Nov 2024-Oct 2026)
- 4 Board meetings (approximately half a day each plus prep time)
- Approximately 2-4 hours per quarter to review, comment, and provide feedback on project materials

- Participation in the Istanbul conference (over 3 days in September 2025) ideally in person if able to travel

### **Remuneration:**

Community Advisory Board members will each be paid a stipend of \$1500 USD (or GBP equivalent) as compensation for their time, expertise, and involvement in the project. Travel and associated costs will also be covered to attend the Istanbul Conference and/or other in-person activities as required. An invoice will be required in order to pay the stipend, and payment terms will be agreed and set out in a signed agreement.

## **4. How to apply**

Individuals who meet the essential criteria set out above and are interested to apply to join the Community Advisory Board should email 1) your CV and 2) a statement of interest addressing why you would like to join the Advisory Board for this project and how you meet the person specification criteria (max. 500 words)

Applications should be sent to [Josephine.foster@statelessness.eu](mailto:Josephine.foster@statelessness.eu) stating 'PRM Community Advisory Board' in the subject line **no later than 9am GMT Monday 18 November 2024.**

**For any questions about the Community Advisory Board or the project, please contact:**

Nina Murray, Head of Policy & Advocacy - [nina.murray@statelessness.eu](mailto:nina.murray@statelessness.eu)

Sirazul Islam, Community Engagement Coordinator – [sirazul.islam@statelessness.eu](mailto:sirazul.islam@statelessness.eu)