



ENS Membership – Questions & Answers

This Q&A is written to provide clarity to prospective and existing ENS associate members on the membership criteria.

What are ENS's mission and values?

Our Mission

ENS connects stateless people, their communities, and organisations and experts from across Europe with a shared dedication to breaking the cycle of statelessness and realising everyone's right to a nationality. We aim to reach our goals by enabling collective action in three areas: law and policy development, awareness-raising, and capacity-building.

Our Values

Diversity • Equality • Inclusion • Transparency • Accountability • Innovation • Collaboration

What is meant by 'a minimum level of activity'?

ENS does not charge a membership fee but we do need our members to be active and engaged so that we remain a dynamic and impactful Network. We understand that ENS members have different levels of capacity and that this can be impacted by funding and/or developments at country level (including new emergencies). We also recognise that this can change from year to year.

We measure activity by not only engagement with ENS (e.g. attendance at our events/webinars or participation in our projects/forums) but also by the amount of work members do on statelessness at country level.

Where this cannot be guaranteed (for prospective members), or this drops below a certain level (for existing members) for a sustained period then this criteria may not be met unless there are compelling circumstances to temporarily justify this.

However, due consideration will be given to community members, with particular understanding and discretion afforded to any particular fluctuations in capacity which may be experienced by them. Also given that many contribute their own time on a non-salaried basis.

Members' activity levels will be reviewed, at minimum, once every 3 years when the secretariat completes its annual review of 1/3 of the membership. If a member is found to not meet this engagement criteria then there is a workflow to try to reengage them, and if that is unsuccessful then they will be presented to the Board for retirement. Retirements are able to be appealed should the member not agree with the decision.



What is meant by ‘political activities’? And what ‘political activities’ would mean you’re not eligible for membership?

Under UK charity law charities can take part in political activity that supports their purpose and is in their best interests. There may be situations where carrying out political activity is the best way to support their charity’s purpose. However, political activity must not become the reason for the charity’s existence. Charities must remain independent and must not give their support to a political party. For more detailed guidance see [here](#).

Examples of ineligibility for ENS membership would include if an organisation was specifically affiliated with a political party and/or where its employees engaged in activities in support of a political party in a professional rather than purely personal capacity.

What activities could cause reputational risk to ENS?

Any *public* statement or behaviour (such as statements on social media or at conferences, signing up to or publicly supporting groups or campaigns, etc.) that can be reasonably perceived as being against ENS values and/or could cause reputational harm to ENS. Examples include public statements or behaviour that can be reasonably associated with racism, sexism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ-phobia, antisemitism, Islamophobia, antigypsyism or which incites hatred or aggression against any particular group of people (non-exhaustive list).

I am an academic, studying, lecturing on or researching statelessness, what does active membership look like?

If you are working in an academic setting, studying/researching statelessness, or lecturing on statelessness, then it may be possible for you to join as an associate member. However, you will need to demonstrate how you plan to make an active contribution, and how ENS’s values will inform your work, including how you perceive your role in facilitating the inclusive participation of people with lived experience in your research and what methodology you adopt to ensure that they are able to meaningfully participate and contribute to your research.

How should the lived experience of stateless people/the perspectives of stateless people be depicted in/embedded into the work of members?

ENS has co-created, with community led organisations and ENS members Apatride and Statefree, [storytelling guidelines](#) that are practical tools designed to be implemented across various storytelling formats. The storytelling process must be handled with care to ensure it empowers rather than exploits. These guidelines support individuals with lived experience to authentically control the narrative of their story to drive change. We encourage anyone working with people with lived experience, including in an academic/research setting, to use these guidelines to guide you in the way you conduct your work.