OUR IMPACT 2025

During 2025 ENS continued to lead civil society efforts to address statelessness in Europe, achieving significant impact and a 'multiplier effect' through our membership, which includes over 180 members in 41 European countries.

Addressing Roma statelessness in the Western Balkans

In 2025, we continued to prioritise work to address Roma statelessness in the Western Balkans. Our joint project under the EU-Council of Europe Roma Integration Phase III Programme culminated in a regional roundtable in Podgorica in May with governments, international organisations, civil society, and community representatives coming together to reflect and chart a path forward. Together with our seven partners in six countries, we've provided vital legal assistance and strengthened institutional capacity through training and workshops. In July, we jointly published a series of seven policy papers setting out the status quo and what needs to happen next.

Over the course of the year, we also made a submission to the European Commission's Annual Enlargement Package and supported human rights advocacy and litigation on the issues raised through the project. We continue to urgently fundraise to continue this vital work with our partners in the region whose work has been significantly impacted by foreign aid cuts and much-reduced programming and engagement by UNHCR.

Influencing the EU asylum and migration agenda

In 2025, we continued our focused advocacy to influence robust implementation of hard-won statelessness protections in the EU Migration and Asylum Pact and joined civil society calls for the concerning new Returns proposal to be withdrawn. We held multiple meetings with the European Commission, MEPs, Member States, and EU Agencies, including the Asylum Agency, Fundamental Rights Agency, and FRONTEX. We co-developed new training for the EU Asylum Curriculum, contributed to regional guidance and tools, and participated in a range of multistakeholder events addressing Pact implementation.

We engaged our members to support advocacy at national level, establishing a Pact implementation working group, and providing technical support. We briefed allies and key stakeholders on how the Returns proposal will impact on stateless people and lent our voice to calls for the proposal to be rejected. This coordinated and multifaceted advocacy at regional and national levels, drawing on our extensive advocacy relationships, has been crucial in raising awareness and building capacity of national and regional authorities to improve access to protection for stateless refugees.

Rolling out our Identification Toolkit

Our identification toolkit was developed to support frontline asylum practitioners to identify and address statelessness. Our template guide supports national actors to tailor and draft their own bespoke toolkit, with adaptable text on what statelessness is, how to identify it, and where to refer people for routes to protection. In 2024, we rolled out four national toolkits (for Bulgaria, Czechia, Romania, and Türkiye). We had secured funding from the US State Department to roll out the toolkit in five more European countries during 2025, as well as to adapt it to Central Asia, but this grant award was terminated in February, stalling progress and compelling us to focus on fundraising to be able to continue and further

develop this area of work. Notwithstanding this setback, in late 2025 we began work on a new toolkit for Scotland with the support of the Scottish Government under its New Scots Integration Strategy. We also published a new toolkit for Germany in November ahead of our joint conference with Statefree in Berlin.

Benchmarking progress through our Statelessness Index

A key priority in 2025 was to maintain and further develop our Statelessness Index, which now benchmarks how 35 European countries address statelessness. We worked with our partners to update 18 countries, researched and published a new country profile for Armenia, and delivered outreach and engagement activities in 15 countries. We held our annual state of play assessment webinar in February, with an audience of over 100 participants attending live.

The Index had over 12,000 users in 2025 and continues to enhance our ability to monitor law and policy, push for reform, and hold governments to account on their international obligations. In October, we published an updated comparative briefing on Statelessness Determination & Protection in Europe: good practice, challenges, and risks. The Index covers various themes, including a section on detention, which informs our ongoing advocacy on prevention of arbitrary detention of stateless people. We also actively monitor and publish information through the Index (as well as a dedicated page on our website) on access to protection for people displaced from Ukraine, including under the EU Temporary Protection Directive.

Strengthening our work and impact in the UK

In 2025, we strengthened our work in the UK, focusing on access to protection for displaced Palestinians, community leadership, legal capacity, and strategic advocacy. Guided by a newly established Community Advisory Board of Palestinian experts, we developed and disseminated a practitioner-focused legal briefing on Palestinians' access to protection in the UK, supported by a webinar, and ongoing work to translate the briefing into accessible community-oriented information. We convened and connected UK lawyers, advocates, and community leaders nationally and across Europe, including through participation at our joint conference in Berlin, helping to align UK work with pan-regional efforts to address statelessness. Alongside this, we advanced our advocacy in the UK through engagement with the Home Office, parliamentary and sector-wide policy debates, and contributing to collective responses to law and policy reform affecting stateless people.

Achieving impact through our human rights advocacy

We have worked with our members to undertake impactful human rights advocacy during 2025. Following the presentation by our Romanian member of our joint recommendations before the Child Rights Committee (CRC) in February, the CRC issued three relevant recommendations to the Romanian Government on birth registration, statelessness determination, and nationality law safeguards. The CRC also made specific requests for information to the Serbian and Slovenian Governments respectively on issues that we have raised together with our members.

Other joint submissions and advocacy we and/or our members made resulted in statelessness-specific recommendations being issued by the Committee on Social and Cultural Rights to the UK, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to Ireland, the Human Rights Committee to North Macedonia, and the CRC to

Norway. In March, we also submitted evidence to inform the 2025 report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus to the Human Rights Council.

Supporting our members to push for change through the courts

In 2025, we worked to strengthen our litigation work by intentionally integrating community members and lived experience in our legal initiatives and outputs and exploring new opportunities for collaboration. We facilitated two sessions on statelessness at the PILnet Global Forum to harness the power of pro bono work, and a workshop on legal empowerment of communities at the joint ENS-Statefree conference in Berlin. We also published our new legal briefing on the rights of stateless Palestinians in the UK, in consultation with community members and other experts. Alongside further developing our Statelessness Case Law Database, which now contains nearly 400 case summaries and attracted 22,000 active users in 2025, we published four Litigation Bulletins with summarised developments on statelessness from European courts, new resources, and upcoming opportunities. We have continued to coordinate our Strategic Litigation Online Forum and facilitated member-led spaces for legal practitioners working on statelessness in Europe to exchange knowledge and expertise.

Ending childhood statelessness

Building on our #StatelessKids campaign and longstanding engagement on the nexus between statelessness and children's rights, we have continued our strategic engagement with regional actors. We have participated in joint EU initiatives with child rights organisations as members of the Child Rights Action Group to ensure statelessness is integrated in its work, including advocating for the re-establishment of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Children, participating in the EU Child Rights Forum, and engaging new Commissioners on various child rights issues. We have actively participated in activities of the European Guardianship Network, attending a Network meeting in Vienna in May. We have played a key role in the Council of Europe's Committee on Legal Cooperation Working Group (CDCJ-MIG) on childhood statelessness, attending meetings and inputting technical expertise to strengthen safeguards to prevent childhood statelessness and protect stateless children in Europe.

In June, we responded to the European Commission's consultation on its LGBTIQ Equality Strategy post-2025 calling for the intersection between statelessness and LGBTIQ identities in Europe to be addressed in the new strategy. We have continued to sit on the Identity Rights Working Group, contributing to joint initiatives to raise awareness of childhood statelessness with the Child Rights and CEDAW Committees in Geneva. We participated in a network of networks meeting in Brussels in December to address child protection risks for children displaced from Ukraine, bringing statelessness and nationality issues to the discussions.

Addressing statelessness on the global stage

We have continued our international advocacy to ensure that statelessness is prominently addressed as part of the UN's Global Compact on Refugees and Global Refugee Forum (GRF) process, including by continuing to sit on the GRF NGO Reference Group. We serve as a member of the Advisory Committee for the UNHCR-led multistakeholder Global Alliance to End Statelessness (GAtES).

In December, we attended UNHCR's GRF Progress Review where we co-sponsored a linked event on equal nationality rights, and our Vice-Chair moderated a side event on

statelessness facilitated by UNHCR's Division of International Protection. Our Director intervened during a GRF full plenary session, and organised a delegation meeting of 15 civil society and stateless-led organisations with UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner. Through such initiatives we have sought to engage and work with sister organisations to ensure that statelessness continues to be prominently addressed in international advocacy forums. Under the auspices of GAtES, with UNHCR's support, we also co-convened with stateless-led organisations an online Regional Network Lab. exploring the theme 'Towards collaborative, cross-sector advocacy on statelessness'.

Growing our reach

Our social media, blog, newsletter, and website continue to strengthen our online presence and raise awareness of statelessness issues with over 115,000 annual website users across our four websites, and over 7,800 subscribers to our mailing list. In December, we convened our Annual General Conference (online) bringing together our members from across Europe, and complementing other initiatives we held throughout the year designed to connect and engage our network with implementation of our strategic plan.

Centring stateless people and progressing our work with impacted communities

Core to our work and critical to our changemaking efforts is the work we do in partnership with stateless people and communities impacted by statelessness. Our Community Group, made up of over 50 stateless activists and community representatives based across Europe, meets online monthly to share ideas, collaborate, and find solidarity. We co-facilitate these sessions alongside group members, and, in 2025, explored diverse topics together including mental health, activism, and fundraising. Community members were supported to participate in ENS activities, co-facilitating and presenting at ENS and member events, attending our joint Berlin conference, writing blogs, speaking out in the media, and joining the Community Advisory Board for our work with Palestinians. We work hard to ensure that stateless changemakers speak alongside decision-makers and institutions at our events, breaking down barriers to participation and decision-making, and enabling their direct influence on policy agendas at country and regional levels.

To support this work, we have continued to promote our Community Speaker Policy, co-designed to promote equitable inclusion and respect for community members speaking at events. During 2025, we complemented this and our Storytelling Guidelines with work to co-develop Advocacy Guidelines with Statefree and Apatride Network. The aim of the new guidelines is to empower stateless activists and communities to engage in meaningful, collaborative advocacy, and educate allies and institutions on how to break down barriers to the participation of stateless advocates. We held a series of consultations and workshops on the draft guidelines in 2025, supporting community members to share their experiences of advocacy, and directly influence the content of the Guidelines which will be published in 2026.

Building power through collective action: our joint conference in Berlin

In November, we co-organised with Statefree our vibrant joint conference 'Statelessness and Innovation: Building Power Through Collective Action', bringing together over 100 participants with lived and learned expertise on statelessness for three days of learning and exchange in Berlin. Through a series of workshops, panel discussions, keynote speakers and break-out sessions, community members, activists, civil society organisations, institutions, government officials, and allies explored innovative solutions to statelessness, shared lived and learned expertise, strengthened our collective knowledge on

statelessness in Europe, and tried to chart a path forward together.

Highlights from the conference included mapping the future of statelessness advocacy with community members from across Europe, panel discussions on innovative new tools and approaches to tackling statelessness, reflections on the power of storytelling, and performances from a variety of artists, musicians and community leaders reminding us all of the power of creativity and finding joy. We produced a joint newsletter, outcomes report and short video which capture key moments from the conference.