

No Child Should be Stateless

Room ASP 5E1, European Parliament, Brussels

13.00-15.00, Tuesday 1 December 2015



European
Network on
Statelessness

Hosted by Jean Lambert MEP and organised by the European Network on Statelessness with the European Parliament's Inter Group on Children's Rights

You are cordially invited to the Brussels launch of the European Network on Statelessness report **“No Child Should be Stateless”** which synthesises on the ground research conducted in 8 European countries along with analysis of relevant legislation in all 47 Council of Europe countries. After mapping out the problem, the report makes a range of recommendations to effectively address childhood statelessness.

The **European Network on Statelessness (ENS)** is a network of NGOs, academic initiatives, and individual experts committed to address statelessness in Europe. 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.

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. This event is intended to raise awareness and to facilitate such a discussion as well as to agree upon relevant strategies and next steps.

Provisonal programme

13.00	Welcome and introduction - Jean Lambert MEP
13.10 – 13.25	Presentation of the report and the ENS campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Chris Nash, European Network on Statelessness– Laura van Waas, Institute on Statelessness and inclusion
13.25-13.45	Presentations on the role of key stakeholders in addressing childhood statelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Sophie Magennis, Head of the Policy and Legal Support Unit, UNHCR Bureau for Europe– Margaret Tuite, European Commission– Jana Hainsworth, Eurochild

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Marc Dullaert, Chair of European Network of Ombudspersons for Children
13.45-14.00	<p>Responses and reflections on the role of the European Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Anna Maria Corazza Bildt MEP (EPP) - Co-chair of the European Parliament intergroup on Childrens rights and Member of the LIBE Committee – Caterina Chinnici MEP (S&D) Member LIBE Committee – Cecilia Wickstrom MEP (ALDE) - Chair of the Petitions Committee and ALDE coordinator in the LIBE committee – Timothy Kirkhope MEP - Vice chair of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Children's Rights and coordinator for the ECR group LIBE Committee
14.05-14.30	Participant discussion and exchange of ideas and good practice
14.30-15.00	Screening of multimedia and opportunity for further networking

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided

Please RSVP to Rachel Sheppard at jean.lambert@europarl.europa.eu by 24 November. If you need an access badge to enter the parliament, please include your full name, date of birth, nationality, ID number and type of document (passport/ID card)

