WHY DO CHILDREN **BECOME STATELESS?**

Children get their nationality through different types of **connections** they have with a country...

NATIONALITY

UNDER THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES MUST PROTECT CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO ACQUIRE A NATIONALITY

In some cases, it is being born and living in a country

In others, it is that the child's parents are nationals

In many cases, it is a combination of these connections

BUT sometimes children get no nationality.
Their right to a nationality is denied and they end up stateless.

STATELESSNESS

1. When the nationality laws of **two countries clash**
2. When the nationality laws do **not comply with international standards**
3. When **old states break up** and new states are formed
4. When the nationality of a child is **stripped away** with no good reason
5. When **poor practice and lack of documentation** such as a birth certificate create problems for children
6. When a **child's parents are not known** because the baby was abandoned
7. When a **child is internationally adopted or born to surrogate parents**
8. When a child's **parents are stateless**, or are deprived of their own nationality

In all of these cases the child suffers unnecessarily through **no fault of their own**.

BUT this can easily be prevented if countries have strong safeguards in place to prevent childhood statelessness

States should ensure that **no child is born stateless** in Europe by:

PREVENTION

DOMESTIC LEGAL & POLITICAL MEASURES

Granting nationality as soon as possible where a child would otherwise grow up stateless

Reforming nationality laws to address gaps leading to statelessness

Encourage citizenship applications by sharing information

ADMINISTRATIVE GOOD PRACTICE

Resolving cases of statelessness in line with the best interests of the child

Ensuring that every child receives a birth certificate

Collecting data on stateless children

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Seeking assistance from experts and UN bodies

Working together with other countries to resolve cases of statelessness

Ratifying and fully implementing relevant international treaties

FIND OUT MORE: **www.statelesskids.eu**

European Network on Statelessness