

Statelessness and Refugees: Understanding the nexus

Training video, Part 1

In this training video, international experts explore what statelessness is, how it interacts with refugee situations and what some of the main challenges are in this context. Laura van Waas from the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion introduces a series of short interviews with: Professor Helene Lambert of Westminster University; Kerry Neal of UNICEF; Fernando de Medina Rosales, Norwegian Refugee Council; Lucy Hovil of the International Refugee Rights Initiative; and Gábor Gyulai, European Network on Statelessness / Hungarian Helsinki Committee.

The video has three chapters:

1. Relationship between displacement & statelessness
2. Understanding the needs of stateless refugees
3. Protecting refugees' right to nationality

Self-study questions

1. What is the difference between a stateless person and a refugee?
2. Statelessness is recognized to be a cause and consequence of displacement: explain.
3. Why is it important to understand whether a refugee population is affected by statelessness?
4. What role do civil registration and documentation play in the prevention of statelessness?
5. What obstacles can refugees face in accessing birth registration and how could these be overcome?

Further reading

- ✓ **Statelessness and displacement. Scoping paper**, NRC and Tilburg University, 2015:
<https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/statelessness-and-displacement.pdf>
- ✓ **The World's Stateless**, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, 2014:
<http://www.institutesi.org/worldsstateless.pdf>
- ✓ **Ending statelessness within 10 years: A special report**, UNHCR, 2014:
<http://www.unhcr.org/protection/statelessness/546217229/special-report-ending-statelessness-10-years.html>
- ✓ **Identification in the context of forced displacement**, B. Manby for the World Bank, 2016:
<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/24941/Identification0r0development00ID4D0.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y>
- ✓ **Birth registration in emergencies: A review of best practices in humanitarian action**, Plan International, 2014:
<https://plan-international.org/publications/birth-registration-emergencies>
- ✓ **Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons**, UNHCR, 2014:
<http://www.refworld.org/docid/53b676aa4.html>
- ✓ **Addressing the right to a nationality through the CRC**, Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, 2016:
<http://www.statelessnessandhumanrights.org/>