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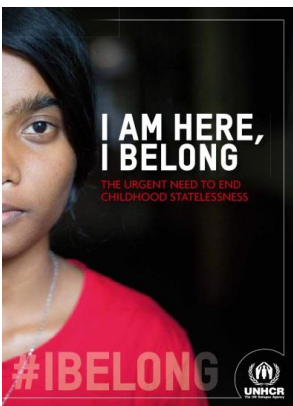
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### A day in the life of... Greg Constantine, Documentary Photojournalist

*"I truly believe the more time one spends on the ground with stateless people, the more effective they will be in actually being able to talk about the issue and inform people about what this issue is all about. Whether it be talking to policy makers, legal community, civil society, etc, etc, being able to talk authentically about the human cost of statelessness is crucial to getting the message across to people. ..."*

Read the full interview in this month's "A day in the life of..." at the bottom of this bulletin.

### #ibelong campaign anniversary



On 4 November 2014, UNHCR launched the #ibelong campaign to end statelessness by 2024. Last month saw the first anniversary of this ambitious global campaign. UNHCR published a series of brand-new resources, including a [special report](#) "**I am here, I belong: The urgent need to end childhood statelessness**", together with a number of moving [videos](#). The special report was launched at an event in New York with UNHCR High Commissioner Guterres, the full video of which can be watched [here](#).

Additional videos belonging to the campaign can be found on the [youtube channel](#) of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, or accessed here: [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#). UNHCR's campaign website has also been updated, with new features added and can be visited at <http://ibelong.unhcr.org>.

*In related news this month...*

#### [Graffiti artists get involved in the fight against statelessness to a tune of rap](#)

In Senegal, artists drew a new mural on the main Wall of UNHCR's Dakar offices on the occasion of the first anniversary of the global #ibelong campaign.



#### [3 new winners claim UNHCR Award for best research on statelessness in 2015](#)

Tilburg University and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have honoured three student researchers from universities in the Netherlands, USA and Norway for the Best Research on Statelessness in 2015. The award for best undergraduate thesis went to **Veronica Perozo Alberti** of Tilburg University (NL) who looked at the relationship between migration law and statelessness. The award for best graduate research went to **Marie Brokstad Lund-Johansen** from the University of Oslo (NO). Her thesis, 'Fighting for Citizenship in Kuwait', discusses the causes and characteristics of mobilisation in Kuwait's long-standing statelessness community, known as the Bidoon. In the category of doctoral research, the award went to **Kristy Belton** of the University of Connecticut (USA). Her thesis explored the consequences of statelessness through the cases of the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic.

### What's new: Publications, Tools & Resources

#### ENS launches research and toolkit on protecting stateless persons from arbitrary detention:

This month, the European Network on Statelessness published a number of resources focusing on the problem of arbitrary detention of stateless persons. Central among these is a [toolkit on protecting stateless persons from arbitrary detention](#), launched on 30 November in London, at an event accompanied by an exhibition of Greg Constantine's ground-breaking photo work. There were also three country studies, looking more closely at policies and practices relating to the detention of stateless persons in [the Netherlands](#) (with ASKV), [Poland](#) (with Halina Nieć) and [Malta](#) (with Aditus). All of the resources, along with summaries, translations and related announcements can be found on the ENS website [here](#).

This works forms part of a three year project to map the extent of the issue, to create advocacy tools and to train lawyers and NGOs to protect stateless persons from arbitrary detention. The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion is proud to be an expert partner for this project.

### [Practices and approaches in EU member states to prevent and end statelessness](#)

The European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs commissioned this study at the request of the LIBE Committee. The study describes the practices and approaches in all EU member states regarding the prevention and eradication of statelessness.

### [Documentary on the plight of Haitian-Bahamians](#)

This short documentary by South African filmmaker Charlie Shoemaker highlights the struggles of people of Haitian descent who were born in The Bahamas. The documentary was made four years before the immigration policy was changed and has sadly made all the problems detailed in the film considerably worse. A recent ENS [blog](#) also discusses the plight of Dominicans of Haitian descent. More on the situation of statelessness Dominicans of Haitian descent is available in [this](#) HR Brief on the right to nationality in the Dominican republic. Amnesty International also provided news on statelessness in the Dominican Republic in its ['Legal maze leaves thousand stateless in nation of 'ghost citizens'](#).

### [Registering rights - Syrian refugees and the documentation of births, marriages and deaths in Jordan](#)

Civil documentation plays a crucial role in securing legal identity within society. It helps to prevent statelessness and protects a range of human rights. This report, by the Norwegian Refugee Council and Harvard's International Human Rights Clinic, examines the processes, challenges and significance of civil documentation for Syrian refugees and focuses on the experiences of the vast majority of Syrian refugees who live outside of formal refugee camps in Jordan. Relatedly, this [Al Jazeera video on Lebanon-born Syrians](#) explains the risk of statelessness among Syrian refugee children who were born in Lebanon and this [BBC video](#) also looks at citizenship rights in Lebanon, as discussing gender-discrimination and the failure to naturalise Syrian or Palestinian men.

### [The State of being stateless: An account of South Asia](#)

In this book, by Paula Banerjee, Anasua Basa Ray Chaudhury and Atig Ghosh, the experiences of diverse stateless groups are brought together within a comparative framework. The book argues that continued situations of dislocation and/or refugeehood can produce statelessness and draws on research done in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan.

### **Latest reports on the situation of the stateless Rohingya**

The Rohingya in Malaysia are discussed in this Refugees International publication ['Malaysia: Rohingya refugees hope for little and receive less'](#). The Diplomat discusses the plight of Rohingya in Thailand in ['Thailand must end its own Rohingya atrocity'](#). Another publication by Su-Ann Oh, published in the ISEAS Perspective, no. 32, gives a more general view of the recent developments surrounding the Rohingya in ['On the Rohingya, statelessness and 'trafficking': Separating the fundamental from the sensational'](#).

### **Other recent publications & resources:**

- [Statelessness and UNHCR's work: From a forced displacement perspective](#): An article in the CDR Quarterly by Mai Kaneko, looking at statelessness from the perspective of migration and displacement (from p. 46).
- [Bloodlines and belonging: Time to abandon ius sanguinis](#): This paper, a result of the EUDO Citizenship Forum Debate, discusses the widespread legal rule of ius sanguinis, and whether such transmission of citizenship from parent to child can still be justified in the contemporary world.
- ['Fear was always in me': Life as a stateless person](#): Vice News reports on Life as a Stateless Person following the story of Raliya who was stateless for 24 years.
- [Chhitmahal: The de facto stateless of the Indo-Bangla border](#): In this paper written by Atig Ghosh, discusses statelessness along the Indo-Bangla border. The paper is part of a report "Research on the Humanitarian Aspects along the Indo-Bangladesh border", scroll to page 7.
- [Citizenship, for sale](#): Citizenship for sale is a radio broadcast discussing statelessness and the booming market for passports.
- [Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network \(APRRN\) Country update newsletter](#): The newsletter gives brief updates on Afghanistan, Australia, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Taiwan. Statelessness is discussed in relation to Taiwan and Vietnam.

## **What's new: Law & Policy**

### [Madagascar plans to amend discriminatory law that fuels statelessness](#)

Madagascar plans to amend a discriminatory nationality law that when implemented will ensure that women are no longer discriminated against in their ability to confer nationality on their children. We await future developments as twenty MPs signed a Statement of Commitment in which they recognise shortcomings of the current law and pledge to push reform forward within the Assembly.

## Chilean Supreme Court analyses a nationality claim of 161 stateless children

On 10 November 2015, the Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, the University Diego Portales and the University Alberto Hurtado formed an alliance to present a nationality claim in the Supreme Court of Justice in relation to 161 stateless children. Despite being born in Chile during the past years, Chilean nationality was denied for these children on grounds of their parents having irregular migratory status. More than 3000 children are stateless in Chile due to similar situations. The Court is expected to decide on the case within a month following the presentation of the claim. Media coverage of the presentation of the claim can be found however so far only available in Spanish [El Mercurio](#), [24 horas](#), [La Tercera](#).

## Announcements & events

### [Workshop announcement: Postnational challenges - Imminent tensions between citizenship and the nation-state](#)

This workshop, of the Joint Sessions of Workshops of the European Consortium for Political Research, focuses on the tension that characterises the relationship between citizenship and the nation-state of today. The workshop will take place between 24-28 April 2016 and only scholars currently working in the Workshop's field and with a paper or research document for discussion are invited to participate. **The deadline for paper proposals is 1 December 2015.**

### [Call for papers on statelessness in Asia](#)

A special issue of the journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies is planned to be on irregularity, statelessness and protection in Southeast Asia. Papers submitted must be original scholarly pieces and follow the submission guidelines of the journal. **The deadline for submission of an abstract and biographical note: 10 December.**

### [Event announcement: Nationaliteit Onbekend \(English: Nationality unknown\)](#)

On **8 December 2015**, Humanity House in The Hague will hold an interactive night about statelessness. Through use of videos and expert contributions by Karel Hendriks and Nanda Oudejans, the event in the Humanity House will explore the question what it means to be stateless. Note that the language of the event will be Dutch. Entrance is free, reservation is required via the website.

## UPR 23: Recommendations on nationality & statelessness

The 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) took place from 2 to 13 November 2015 and the adopted draft reports of the UPR Working Group can be found [here](#). In total, **54 recommendations were made in relation to nationality/statelessness during this session**. These recommendations were made to 8 out of the 14 countries that were subject to review, namely Lebanon, Myanmar, Oman, Mauritania, Nepal, Austria, Australia, and Georgia (no relevant recommendations were made to Micronesia, Nauru, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Sao Tome and Principe). Lebanon, Myanmar and Oman received the highest number of recommendations issues of statelessness at national level, accounting for 40 out of the 54 recommendations. The main topics relating to statelessness which was raised in this session was eliminating gender discrimination in law and practice (including recommendations for law reform at national level to allow equal conferral of nationality among men and women onto their children and withdrawing from reservations made to Article 9 CEDAW) and ensuring access to citizenship for specific groups (e.g. minority groups, repatriating refugees, children born out of wedlock).

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion has put together a [summary document which can be accessed here](#) and highlights the nationality/statelessness related recommendations made to the countries under review. It sets out which countries received and issued recommendations related to statelessness, the main topics that are addressed, and identifies some issues that were not raised during the 23<sup>rd</sup> UPR session. We hope that this resource will help to further enhance human rights engagement on the issue of statelessness through the UPR and other mechanisms.

## Popular on Twitter this Month

[Liesl Heila Muller @lieslmlul](#) Nov 27 @LHR\_SA #statelessness project at the @IPUparliament event on the role of parliamentarians to #endstatelessness

[Ken Okoth, MP Kibra @okothkenneth](#) Nov 27 Statelessness is an injustice. Let's protect right of nationality starting with birth certificates for all children

[Juliana Vengoechea @jmvengoecheab](#) Nov 21 #NatIDConf2015 Panel 6: ethical and HR implications of ID systems in the context of #statelessness @CarrCenter

[ILPA @ILPAImmigration](#) Nov 20 Alison Harvey on loss & deprivation of citizenship including deprivation resulting in statelessness at IBA Global Immigration Conference

[Vasa Prava BiH @VasaPravaBih](#) Nov 18 Istanbul Türkiye Approx.20 practitioners are engaged in #paralegal projects with focus on #identity #citizenship and #statelessness

[IRIN News @irinnews](#) Nov 11 Statelessness, human trafficking, displacement... @jaredferrie lists key challenges for #Myanmar: <http://www.irinnews.org/report/102206/key-challenges-for-myanmar> #MyanmarElection

### Greg Constantine, Documentary Photojournalist

#### Can you give us a short description of the type of work you do?

I'm a documentary photojournalist who works primarily on stories that focus on human rights and injustice. I've been based in SE Asia for the past ten years. While creating photographs and visual stories is the primary focus on my work, a huge part of what I do is to explore creative ways to engage various audiences with the work and try to utilize photography as a platform to contribute to change, this could be through exhibitions, presentations, lectures, short films, online resources and books.



#### Briefly describe what type of statelessness activities your organization is involved in.

As a freelance photographer, am constantly searching for opportunities to collaborate with other organizations to create new work and disseminate it to various target audiences. My activities related to statelessness vary. Exhibitions of my work on statelessness have been shown in over 25 cities around the world. I've collaborated with organizations like the UNHCR, Refugees International, ENS, Praxis in Serbia, Aditus in Malta, CIR and ASGI in Italy, APRRN in SE Asia and many others. These collaborations have been incredibly successful in exposing who stateless people and revealing the multitude of challenges they face in their day to day lives.

#### Could you describe a particular project you are working on right now?

For the past ten years, I've worked almost exclusively on one project called Nowhere People. The project documents the impact statelessness has on communities in 18 countries around the world. It has been an amazing project to work on and meeting so many stateless people around the world has had a profound impact on me. I've become incredibly dedicated to showing how documentary photography can contribute to all the efforts being made to find solutions to the plight of stateless people. A book of my entire project has just been published that I am incredibly proud of. The book presents multiple layers of trying to understand the complexities of statelessness and really is one of the first visual records of what statelessness looks like today.

#### What do you most enjoy about this work?

There are so many things I enjoy about this work. Stateless people are some of the most amazing people I have ever met. That said, having the opportunity to spend so much time on the ground, listening to the stories of stateless people all over the world has been an incredible privilege. I also enjoy working in a collaborative space, brainstorming and initiating new ideas for how photography can help propel the awareness & exposure of this issue and the lives of stateless people.

#### What do you find are the biggest challenges you face in your work?

Funding has always been an obviously challenge for me to do this work but in recent years, several organizations have seen the value of my work and have been incredible supporters of my work as well. But I think funding is common among anyone doing this kind of work. I always want to see the work reach important audiences and I always want to see the work impact people and the decisions being made to find solutions to the lives of stateless people. Coordinating those opportunities is always a huge challenge.

#### What advice would you give to someone who wants to get involved in / others working on statelessness?

Spend as much time on the ground with stateless people as you can. Listen to their stories for as long as you can. Observe as much on the ground as you can. Their stories and seeing the situation with your own eyes will always be your best source for truly understanding the complexity of the issue, the challenges faced in finding solutions to the issue and the hurdles stateless people face in their day to day lives. To add, I truly believe the more time one spends on the ground with stateless people, the more effective they will be in actually being able to talk about the issue and inform people about what this issue is all about. Whether it be talking to policy makers, legal community, civil society, etc, etc, being able to talk authentically about the human cost of statelessness is crucial to getting the message across to people.

#### What do you hope to accomplish through your work?

I want the work to help add ammunition to the work so many organisations are doing to help find solutions to the issue. And I want the work to keep the lives of stateless people in all the policy and legal discussion about statelessness. The human stories are far too easily lost in the much larger discussions. Actually, there so many things I want to accomplish with my work, there just aren't enough hours in the day and days in the week to make all of them happen.

*Greg's long-awaited book, "Nowhere People" is now available. The book exposes the impact statelessness has on communities in twelve countries around the world, including Myanmar, Nepal, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Iraq, Serbia, Ukraine and the Dominican Republic. Photographs are interwoven with quotes, testimonies, poems and song lyrics from people within these communities. It can be purchased online via the website, [www.nowherepeople.org](http://www.nowherepeople.org) or on.*



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