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***A day in the life of...*** Charlie Rumsby, PhD Candidate at the Centre for Trust Peace and Social Relations at Coventry University.

*"Through my work, I hope to bring the voices and experiences of those living with undetermined nationality to the fore, and based on - their accounts - advocate for their inclusion and protection."*

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

### Announcements and events

**World's Stateless Report launch event**: For the launch of its flagship Report 'The World's Stateless' the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion hosts an event in **London on 2 February 2017**. RSVP via the link if you want to come and see Melanie Khanna (UNHCR), Catherine Harrington (Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights), Laura Bingham (Open Society Justice Initiative) and Greg Constantine (award-winning photographer of "Nowhere People") speaking at a session that is moderated by Kerry Neal from UNICEF. **The deadline for registration is 1 February – just a few places remain!**

**Statelessness regional course: Americas Focus**: This course will be held from 27-31 March 2017 in Bogota, Colombia. It focuses on teaching participants new knowledge, tools and skills to address statelessness and realise the right to nationality by an international team of experts for participants from across the region. The course is offered **bilingual**, in English and Spanish. **The deadline for applications has been extended until 5 February.**

**Request for concept notes: NGO Programs Benefiting Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey**: The US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration has set out a funding opportunity announcement that focuses on NGO programs that benefit refugees and other vulnerable populations in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The sectors on which concept notes must focus include (child) protection, health, education and livelihoods. The proposal submission deadline is **6 February 2017**. There is also another **Funding opportunity for NGO Programs Benefiting Refugees and Other Vulnerable Populations in Afghanistan and Pakistan**. The deadline for submitting proposals for this funding opportunity is **9 February 2017**.

**Job announcement: Part-time Co-editor, Forced Migration Review**: Forced Migration Review is looking for a new Co-Editor responsible for the management and implementation of all aspects of FMR. **The deadline for applications is 1 March.**

**Course: Palestine Refugees and International Law**: Oxford Department of International Development Refugee Studies Centre organises on **10 and 11 March** a two-day short course on the Palestinian refugee case within the broader context of the international human rights regime. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis (max. 27 places available).

**Request for PRM Humanitarian Research Concept Notes**: The US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration has requested concept notes for funding under three current research areas: "Financial Inclusion of Refugees," "Statelessness," and any other "compelling humanitarian research topic." The deadline for submitting proposals is **10 March 2017**.

**Open Society Foundations Civil Society Scholar Awards**: The Civil Society Scholar Awards (CSSA) support international academic mobility to allow doctoral students and university faculty to access resources that enrich socially engaged research and critical scholarship in their home country or home region. The awards provide support across a range of activities, including: fieldwork (data collection); research visits to libraries, archives, or universities; course/curriculum development; and international collaborations leading to peer-reviewed publication. Civil Society Scholars are selected on the basis of their outstanding contributions to research or other engagement with local communities, to furthering debates on challenging societal questions, and to strengthening critical scholarship and academic networks within their fields. **The deadline for applications is 31 March.**

**Statelessness Summer course:** The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion is now accepting applications for its annual Statelessness Summer Course to be held in Tilburg, the Netherlands, from 31 July – 4 August. The course looks at statelessness globally with participants from all over the world. For more information also check out this [video](#). To apply for a place on this course, submit your application online via [www.institutesi.org/courses](http://www.institutesi.org/courses) before **15 April**.

## What's new: Law and policy

**Turkey to revoke citizenship of critics abroad with latest decrees:** The Turkish government issued state of emergency decrees that authorise the government to revoke the citizenship of critics who fled abroad. The new decrees (679, 680 and 681) allow the Cabinet to revoke citizenship of people under investigation yet who remain abroad if these people fail to respond to a summons to return to Turkey within 3 months. Individuals who face one of a list of specific charges that are considered crimes against Turkey will be summoned by prosecutors to testify and if they cannot be reached will be understood to be abroad. The public prosecutor will then refer the case to the Justice Ministry within a month.

**Dutch Supreme Administrative Court rejects request to change status from 'nationality unknown' to 'stateless'** (Available only in Dutch): The Dutch Supreme Administrative Court dismissed on appeal a request to change within the Dutch Municipal Personal Records Database (BRP) the status of the appellant's (A) foster children from 'nationality unknown' to 'stateless'. This decision was based on A not having produced documents to testify for the children's statelessness and the Court sees no obligation whatsoever on the basis of the Law on the BRP for the municipality to investigate statelessness status further nor for them to determine someone's statelessness. The Court moreover does not consider the dismissal to interfere with article 1 of the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons or with the right for respect to private and family life as protected by Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights as there are no consequences for the children's stay right therefore enabling them to enjoy family life with the appellant. This reinforces the need for the Netherlands to move ahead with planned reforms to its statelessness policy and ensure that these changes address the difficulties that stateless persons in the country currently face. Note that the Netherlands will be considered under the Universal Periodic Review in May 2017 – read the joint civil society submission on statelessness in the Netherlands [here](#).

**Withdrawal of citizenship following terrorist crime:** The Danish Supreme Court upheld the High Court's decision to withdraw Danish citizenship from a dual Danish and Moroccan citizen following his conviction to four years in prison for promoting terrorism.

**Statelessness Determination Procedure is created in Ecuador through the adoption of the Human Mobility Procedural Law:** On 9 January 2017 Ecuador adopted the Human Mobility Procedural Law establishing a procedure for the recognition of statelessness status. The Law stipulates that the procedure is to be free and must be completed within 90 days.

**Chad helps returnees at risk of statelessness to get papers:** UNHCR reported that they are working with Chad and partners to ensure the children of Chadian migrants fleeing war in neighbouring countries who are at risk of statelessness to finally receive ID cards.

**High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges:** Matters concerning the right to a legal identity, birth registration and the right to a nationality were part of the discussions at the ninth annual High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges that took place 8-9 December 2016. This year's theme was Children on the Move and recognised the growing plight of young people fleeing violence and war.

**Thailand Opens Citizenship Path for 80,000 Stateless People:** On 7 December, Thailand's military government adopted a resolution that could allow up to 80.000 stateless people living in the country to apply for Thai citizenship. The registered stateless population in Thailand is 438.821 persons, but according to the International Observatory on Statelessness, the exact number of stateless people in Thailand is unknown, and likely to range between 2 to 3.5 million.

**MP calls for citizenship for stateless, Malta-born children:** Maltese shadow social policy minister has taken a cautious stance saying that children who are born in Malta but are effectively stateless should be given Maltese citizenship. The issue of stateless children in Malta received renewed attention recently when three Malta-born children of Nigerian parents were told in writing by the Refugee Commissioner to send copies of their work documents and rent agreements in order to renew their protection statuses.

## The Rohingya of Myanmar – new research and analysis

The Rohingya people of Myanmar were stripped of citizenship in 1982 and now are one of seven global stateless populations with around 1.5 million Rohingya living in Myanmar and across southeast Asia. Since 2012 more than 159.000 people, most of whom Rohingya, have fled Myanmar through hazardous sea routes, causing hundreds of deaths as ships wrecked or were pushed back onto the sea by neighbouring countries. Throughout December and January of this year the human rights violations against the Rohingya in Myanmar have continued to receive the attention of writers and researchers across disciplines. What follows is a selection.

**[The Rohingya people of Myanmar: health, human rights, and identity](#)**: Publication of 1 December that outlines historical events preceding the complex emergency in the Rohingya face threatening their health and human rights. As well as a discussion on the ongoing treatment of the Rohingya by the Myanmar government through the lens of international law and steps that are needed if a durable solution is to be attained.

**[Suspended in Time: The Ongoing Persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Burma](#)**: The United States Government Commission on International Religious Freedom published a report on the ongoing persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. The report considers the treatment of Rohingya Muslims between 2011-2016, goes into recent development and expected future trends to end with conclusions and recommendations.

**["We are at breaking point": Rohingya: persecuted in Myanmar, neglected in Bangladesh](#)**: This Amnesty International report documents the campaign of violence by the Myanmar security forces against Rohingya since 9 October 2016. Including soldiers and police randomly firing on and killing civilians, the raping of women and girls, torching of entire villages and arbitrarily arrests of Rohingya men.

And also:

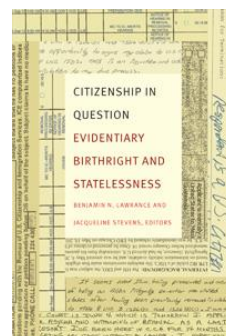
- **[CO16302 | Turning to ASEAN: Response to the Rakhine Crisis](#)**
- **[Where to from here? Report from the Expert Roundtable on regional cooperation and refugee protection in the Asia-Pacific](#)**
- **[Is Myanmar on the Path to Genocide?](#)**
- **[The roots and risks of Myanmar's new Rohingya insurgency](#)**: Jared Ferrie, IRIN, wrote an analysis piece as part of IRIN's new 'in-depth' coverage series on the Rohingya and rising insurgency (also available in Arabic).
- **[Chronology of Policies affecting potentially Stateless Persons and Refugees in Malaysia](#)**: Part of the Statelessness Working Paper Series of December 2016 (see [www.institutesi.org/papers](http://www.institutesi.org/papers)).

## What's new: Publications, tools and resources

**[Solving Statelessness](#)**: Laura Van Waas (Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion) and Melanie Khanna (UNHCR) co-edited this book in which a new discussion about statelessness gets started: a discussion that goes from explaining the problem and considering its causes and consequences towards looking for solutions. The essays which have been collected in this edited volume all approach statelessness from a solutions perspective, looking at what is being done, and what more can be done, to address the issue. The first part of the book has a thematic focus, exploring perspectives, tools and techniques for solving statelessness which are relevant across different countries and regions. Chapters in the second part each have a regional focus, exploring region-specific challenges, developments and innovations set against the backdrop of the broader context of a global campaign to solve statelessness.



**[Citizenship in Question: Evidentiary Birthright and Statelessness](#)**: This book, edited by Benjamin N. Lawrance and Jacqueline Stevens, contains a series of essays by, among others, Jacqueline Bhabha, Polly Price, Kim Rubenstein and Amanda Flaim. In case studies that analyze the legal barriers to citizenship rights in over twenty countries, the contributors explore how states use evidentiary requirements to create and police citizenship, often based on fictions of racial, ethnic, class, and religious differences. The contributors emphasize the political, psychological, and personal impact of citizenship policies, thereby inciting scholars to revisit long-standing political theories and debates about nationality, free movement, and immigration premised on the assumption of clear demarcations between citizens and noncitizens.



**[ISI Statelessness working paper series](#)**: The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion shared the third edition of its online Working Paper Series on Statelessness on International Human Rights Day 2016. This edition comprises four papers, the first being '[Rethinking the Advocacy Tools of the EU in Exporting Legal Principles to the MENAT Region to Tackle Childhood Statelessness](#)' by Katalin Berényi. Second, '[The Enduring Relevance of Arendt's Understanding of the Harm of Statelessness](#)' by James Draper, followed by the '[Chronology of Policies Affecting Potentially Stateless Persons and Refugees in Malaysia](#)' by Tamara Joan Duraisingam and lastly, '[Born of the Islamic State: Addressing Discrimination in Nationality Provision through a Rule of Law Framework](#)' by Sean Lees. Submissions are currently being sought for the fourth edition of the Working Paper Series. The deadline for that is 15 March 2017. Papers can be emailed to [papers@institutesi.org](mailto:papers@institutesi.org).

**[#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness Special Appeal December 2016](#)**: UNHCR in this Special Appeal highlights the financial requirements for the period 2017-2018 needed to address statelessness across 11 countries that host major stateless or at-risk of statelessness populations. Progress in these countries in the next few years is a crucial aspect for achieving the goals of the #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness by 2024.

**[Mapping statelessness in Sweden](#)**: In preparation for the #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness, the UNHCR Regional Representation for Northern Europe has conducted statelessness mappings in each of the countries in the region. This is the Mapping Statelessness Report for Sweden.

**[The Lebanese Nationality Law That Leaves Children Stateless](#)**: Christine Chamoun wrote this piece on Article One of the Lebanese nationality law which very clearly deems a child Lebanese if the child is born of a Lebanese father. Lebanese women on the other hand do not have the right to pass on their nationality to their own children if their husbands are not also Lebanese.

**[The Violence of Gender Discrimination in Nationality Laws](#)**: Catherine Harrington from the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights featured an article on the Thomson Reuters Foundations News website on the relationship between gender-based violence (GBV) and nationality laws in support of the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence”.

**[Analysis of the Procedures for Determining the Date and Place of Birth and for the Exercise of the Rights to Citizenship and Registration of Permanent Residence](#)**: Praxis Serbia launched this report during their 20 December 2016 conference to mark the completion of their project “Legal Assistance to Persons at Risk of Statelessness in Serbia”, funded by UNHCR. The report draws attention to the problems that have been impeding the access to the rights to birth registration, citizenship and registration of permanent residence for years.

**[Report by Nils Muiznieks Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe following his Visit to Latvia from 5 to 9 September 2016](#)**: The report contains a section on childhood statelessness in Latvia.

**[Protection Amid Chaos: The Creation of Property Rights in Palestinian Refugee Camps](#)**: Nadya Hajj, assistant professor of political science at Wellesley College, conducted interviews with two hundred refugees to reveal in this book her findings about the strategies used by Palestinian refugees to protect their property ownership, preserve communal ties, maintain a sense of identity and belonging as they also “navigate their precarious conditions while under continuous assault”.

**[School’s out for smart but stateless siblings](#)**: Three siblings were told to leave school on 3 January of this year, because they are not Malaysian citizens. The children have non-citizen birth certificates that were used to enroll them in school, but which proved insufficient to keep the children on. In Kedah state of Malaysia however, [all stateless children age 7 or older are now allowed to enrol in government schools](#). That decision came one day after the New Straits Times had highlighted the plight of seven-year-old Tan Yao Chun from Changlun, who was unable to attend school as his Malaysian father did not register his birth with the Malaysian embassy in Thailand.

**[Statelessness and Nationality in Côte d’Ivoire](#)**: Mirna Adjami wrote this seminal study, giving stimulating insight in why Cote D’Ivoire has such a large and complex statelessness situation. The report is the culmination of two years of research and analysis (also available in [French](#)).

**[Human Rights Watch World Report 2017](#)**: Human Rights Watch published its annual human rights survey, summarizing key human rights issues in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide. The first section includes five essays. The second section includes the country chapters which include human rights issues and statelessness.

**[The most recent two issues of the International Journal of Refugee Law feature articles that relate to statelessness.](#)** Michelle Foster and Hélène Lambert wrote ‘[Statelessness as a Human Rights Issue: A Concept Whose Time Has Come](#)’ in which they examine the challenges set by Guy Goodwin-Gill for the international community. In the other article, ‘[Deprivation of Nationality, 'The Country of His Nationality' in Article 1A\(2\) of the Refugee Convention, and Non-Recognition in International Law](#)’, Eric Fripp discusses the role of nationality in relation to refugee status determination under article 1A(2) of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951.

## A day in the life of...

### Charlie Rumsby

***PhD Candidate at the Centre for Trust Peace and Social Relations of Coventry University***

#### **How did you get involved in working on statelessness?**

During my MA dissertation research, I worked with a community vulnerable to child prostitution in Cambodia. Initially I was interested in understanding the aspirations of child prostitutes but upon doing research I discovered many in the community lived with undetermined nationality. It was this finding that shaped my PhD research.



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

I am currently writing my PhD thesis that explores “to what extent does being of undetermined nationality affect children’s identity and belonging? The case of the Vietnamese in Cambodia.

**Briefly describe what type of statelessness activities you or your organisation is involved in.**

My objective is to understand statelessness beyond the law, consequently I am interested in the realities and everyday experience of being a noncitizen. Currently I am working on writing my PhD thesis. I have recently completed ethnographic research living among communities at risk of statelessness to understand how they negotiate life’s course, experience being born in a country where you’re made to feel you don’t belong, and how forms of identity and belonging are built.

**What do you most enjoy about this work? What do you find the biggest challenges?**

I love working with young people. I was honoured to learn about their lives, share many memorable moments and made lots of friends on the way. It is a harsh reality to live so precariously. The biggest challenge for me was knowing I could walk away from the research a free person, privileged because I was born a British Citizen. There are dilemmas researchers face when entering and exiting a community. I didn’t want to simply extract and run. As an anthropologist, my research methods enabled me to feel like I settled in the community and participated where I could. Teaching English was a very small gesture I gave to contribute to the education of the young people I worked with. Thankfully there was an opportunity for them to contribute to the World Statelessness Report. It is so important that those who are stateless or at risk of statelessness can tell their own stories.

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

People are not projects, do not treat them as if they are. Statelessness is a multi-layered and complex phenomenon. It will be very unlikely that as an individual you will accomplish much (which can be disheartening). Working across parties and organisations is vital to good work on statelessness. In addition, there is a need for people at all levels of engagement to offer their skills to bring justice. There needs to be those serving to keep governments accountable to the conventions they have signed, and those who need to scrutinise the content and conditions of those conventions. The role of a lawyer will be different to that of an academic in this respect.

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

Through my work, I hope to bring the voices and experiences of those living with undetermined nationality to the fore, and based on - their accounts - advocate for their inclusion and protection.

Contribute to the Statelessness Monthly Bulletin via  
[news@InstituteSI.org](mailto:news@InstituteSI.org) or visit [www.InstituteSI.org](http://www.InstituteSI.org)