

Call for Submissions by 24 May 2018

Statelessness: A Minorities Issue

In accordance with my mandate as Special Rapporteur on minority issues, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/6, I intend to present a thematic report at the 73rd Session of the General Assembly in New York which will provide a detailed analysis and highlight the issue of statelessness, its root causes and the specific conditions or barriers that result in a huge proportion of the world's stateless persons belonging to minorities. It is for this reason that statelessness is first and foremost a minority issue.

The report will also provide suggestions and recommendations on how the causes of statelessness in relation to minorities and barriers to obtain nationality can be effectively tackled in concrete terms, including by highlighting examples of good practices and programmes that would help reduce statelessness for minorities around the world.

Context

The issue of statelessness was introduced in the mandate's 2008 thematic report to the Human Rights Council and analysed, *inter alia*, through the prism of the discriminatory denial or deprivation of citizenship. The report highlighted the struggle of minorities for the protection of their human rights, and how their vulnerability is compounded by the denial or stripping of citizenship (A/HRC/7/23).

Ten years after the ground-breaking report of the first mandate holder, I would like to revisit this essential aspect and other dimensions as statelessness continues to affect mainly minorities worldwide. In my initial report to the Human Rights Council in March 2018 (A/HRC/37/66), I have presented my vision for the mandate and I have laid down the mandate's thematic priorities for the next three years. *Statelessness* is one of the top priorities of my mandate. In this report, I have stated that it is often overlooked and not widely known or appreciated that minorities are disproportionately impacted by practices relating to citizenship and statelessness, and that more than 75% of the world's known stateless population belong to minorities. The discriminatory denial or removal of citizenship in particular may have long-lasting and extreme consequences for the enjoyment of other rights and/or to access various services. It is a vicious circle: minorities may be disproportionately vulnerable to statelessness as a result of state policies and legislation, which in turn leads to more discrimination and exclusion and in extreme cases to violence and mass displacement. In addition, women belonging to minorities may be further marginalized by gender-based discrimination in relation to the acquisition, change or retention of nationality and the conferral of nationality to their children.

Call for Submissions

To this end, and as a first step, I am issuing this call for submissions. In accordance with the established practice of thematic mandate-holders, I welcome submissions that civil society, academics, member states, national human rights institutions, UN agencies, international and regional organizations and others may wish to transmit for this purpose. Such submissions may include, for instance, recommendations for my consideration and/or the submission of evidence, case studies and argumentation relevant to the following questions:

1. What are the main obstacles to minority people obtaining and/or retaining nationality? Why do minorities seem to be particularly affected or even targeted in this respect?
2. What are the challenges and gaps you identify in terms of existing international and regional instruments?
3. What is the specific legislative, institutional and policy framework at the national and local level that governments undertake to address the issue of statelessness? Please provide examples of key laws, policies and practices, including good practices, as well as gaps.
4. How are legislative and policy measures implemented and what is their impact on reducing statelessness?
5. What are the challenges to effectively address statelessness, including its causes and impact on minorities?
6. Please provide specific case studies of stateless populations and their human rights situation.
7. Please provide detailed information and data on the gender-perspective of statelessness, including any legislative and policy developments with regard to acquisition and transfer of nationality and how this impacts on minority women and girls.
8. How have minorities in particular been affected by forced population movement and migration? Have those consistently resulted in statelessness among minorities? Please provide case studies in that regard, in particular in the context of conflict and humanitarian crises.
9. What is the impact of statelessness on the human rights situation of nomadic and cross-border minorities? Please provide information on and examples of regions most affected.
10. Please provide any relevant information and statistics (including surveys, administrative data, legal and policy documents, reports and studies, and in particular those addressing the intersectionality between statelessness and minority rights)
11. What further role could the United Nations and international organisations play to increase awareness of statelessness as a minority issue?

Submissions and input on the above-mentioned areas will be considered public records unless otherwise expressed by the submitter.

Responses to the questions above can be submitted in English, French or Spanish, and in WORD format.

I would be particularly grateful to receive the information requested **preferably by 24 May 2018**. Responses may be addressed to the Special Rapporteur at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights by email (minorityissues@ohchr.org). Please indicate in the heading of your email *Statelessness: A Minority Issue – Apatridie: une affaire de minorités - Apatridia: una problemática de minorías*.

For any further question or clarification, please do not hesitate to have your office contact me through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Mr. Anis Anani, telephone: +41 (0) 22 917 9167, email: aanani@ohchr.org or Mr. Damianos Serefidis, telephone: +41 (0) 22 917 9681, dserefidis@ohchr.org).