
The Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 29 November 2012

Enclosure: 1 page

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

GENEVA
Response of Estonia to the report on discrimination against women in nationality-related matters, including the impact on children

1. The laws and procedures relating to acquisition, change and retention of nationality upon marriage between a national and a non-national. Outline in particular if there are differences in treatment with regard to nationality between men and women who marry non-nationals. Are there any circumstances in which women automatically acquire or lose nationality upon marriage or dissolution of marriage?

Citizenship acquisition, loss and restoration condition apply equally to men and women. According to the Citizenship Act a person cannot acquire Estonian citizenship by marring an Estonian citizen.

2. The laws and procedures relating to conferral of nationality on children by men and women. Specially, do children of female nationals acquire the nationality of their mothers in equal circumstances with men? If there are limitations on conferral of nationality by women on their children, please describe them with reference to relevant legal provisions and procedures.

Children of female nationals acquire Estonian nationality of their mothers in equal circumstances with males. According to the Constitution and Citizenship Act Estonian citizenship is acquired by birth when at least one of the parents of the child holds Estonian citizenship at the time of the birth of the child or when the child is born after the death of his or her father and the father held Estonian citizenship at the time of his death.

3. Best practices by States and other measures that eliminate nationality discrimination against women and avoid or reduce statelessness. Please carefully describe the process to achieve changes in legislation/policies specifying the role of particular national institutions and civil society organizations in the process.

According to the Constitution no one shall be discriminated against nationality, race, color, sex, language, origin, religion, political or other opinion, property or social status, or other circumstances. Therefore Estonian Constitution prohibits all forms of discrimination. Persons with undetermined citizenship are granted all equal social rights.

Estonia consistently takes steps to reduce the number of undetermined citizens. For that purpose, there have been many campaigns carried out, where people with undetermined citizens can learn about their options to acquire Estonian citizenship. Those campaigns have been successful, and the number of undetermined citizens is continuously decreasing.