



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

A Campaign to End Statelessness *Launched on the 60th Anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*

1. Introduction

The year 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. Building on the momentum generated by the 2011 Ministerial Meeting, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 2014 presents an excellent opportunity to reinforce awareness and increase action to address this overlooked human rights crisis. UNHCR will therefore use 2014 to kick off a **decade-long campaign to eradicate statelessness**. The Office will aim to raise the profile of statelessness and the specific challenges it creates for women, men, boys and girls, and to promote responses by governments and civil society.

2. Goals

The programme of activities in 2014 has the following specific goals:

1. To secure greater political commitment to resolve protracted situations of statelessness and to prevent new situations of mass statelessness due to State succession or arbitrary deprivation of nationality.
2. To empower stateless women and men to participate actively in resolving their situation.
3. Based on recent trends, to achieve the following accession targets in relation to the Statelessness Conventions in 2014 (including implementation of pledges to accede):
 - 88 States parties to the 1954 Convention (+ 8 over the 80 States parties as at 1 February 2014);
 - 68 States parties to the 1961 Convention (+ 13 over the 55 States parties as at 1 February 2014).
4. To promote the establishment of statelessness determination procedures to improve identification of stateless persons, and implementation of the 1954 Convention, including through completion of pledges to establish such procedures.
5. To develop and disseminate more empirical research on the impact of statelessness on individuals, taking into account gender, age and diversity considerations.
6. To strengthen and expand the network of civil society partners working on statelessness and to work in partnership to achieve the abovementioned goals.

3. Activities

- **Media strategy:** Launch an integrated global media strategy that uses social, print and electronic media and UNHCR's web platforms to highlight the plight of stateless people and promote action to address statelessness. The strategy will feature video, audio, photos and written testimonies of stateless women, men, boys and girls (Goal 1).
- **Dialogues with stateless persons:** Undertake a series of consultations with stateless groups and individuals around the world, to provide information on UNHCR's statelessness mandate and to gather stories of the impact of statelessness. A series of UNHCR storytelling videos on the lives of individual stateless and formerly stateless persons will be produced to present the human face of statelessness (Goals 1, 2 and 5).
- **Inter-governmental meetings:** UNHCR will highlight issues of statelessness in global and regional intergovernmental meetings to raise the profile of the problem and promote responses (Goals 1, 3 and 4).
- **Country and regional meetings with States and other partners:** Building on the successful approach adopted in 2010-2011, UNHCR to organize a series of meetings with governments, regional organizations and other partners to promote: resolution of protracted situations; accession; establishment of determination procedures and other measures to protect stateless persons; reform of nationality laws and related procedures (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).
- **Good practices series:** UNHCR to publish a series of good practices papers on identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons, which includes many examples of effective operational responses which will for the first time be widely disseminated (Goals 1 and 4).
- **UNHCR Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons:** Launch the Handbook which includes the three sets of Guidelines on statelessness issued in 2012 (Goal 4).
- **Advocacy brochure on statelessness determination procedures:** Prepare and disseminate an advocacy brochure on the importance of statelessness determination procedures. This tool will respond to the most common questions raised by States in relation to the establishment of such procedures (Goal 4).
- **NGO Retreat:** UNHCR to organize the second annual retreat for NGOs to promote the development of a global civil society coalition on statelessness (Goal 6).
- **First Global Forum on Statelessness:** Organise and participate in the First Global Forum on Statelessness in collaboration with Tilburg University. International institutions, governmental representatives, academics, stateless people and NGOs will present their research, responses and experiences of statelessness. The Forum will be held in the Peace Palace, The Hague on 15 – 17 September 2014 (Goals 1, 2, 5 and 6).

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