

# ENDING STATELESSNESS



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# CENTRAL ASIA

**UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.**

A stateless person is someone who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.

Without a nationality, stateless people often have difficulty accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. They are unable to register marriage, or even the birth of their children.

UNHCR works with governments, parliaments, authorities, and civil society across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to identify and protect people without a nationality, resolve existing situations of statelessness, and prevent new cases from emerging.

Since the start of the #IBelong Campaign in 2014 to 30 October 2024

**218,012**

Resolved cases

**93,441**

Resolved Cases  
**Uzbekistan**

**15,866**

Resolved Cases  
**Turkmenistan**

**25,167**

Resolved Cases  
**Kazakhstan**

**29,741**

Resolved Cases  
**The Kyrgyz Republic**

**53,797**

Resolved Cases  
**Tajikistan**

Remaining  
**34,204**  
statelessness  
cases

Remaining cases as of 30 October 2024	Kazakhstan	The Kyrgyz Republic	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	Total
Stateless people	7,436	52	1,326	0	22,496	<b>31,310</b>
People with undetermined nationality	583	8	2,303	0	–	<b>2,894</b>



## People without a nationality

As of October 2024, over 30,000 people were known to be stateless or with undetermined nationality across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. With stateless people continuously identified across Central Asia, the true number is believed to be higher.

A majority of stateless people in Central Asia are ex-citizens of the former Soviet Union, or their descendants, who have not yet acquired or confirmed citizenship of the independent States. Others are born stateless or became stateless due to gaps in nationality laws, international migration, and mixed marriages.

## In Central Asia, UNHCR serves:

- **Stateless persons:** individuals who are not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law; and
- **Persons with undetermined nationality:** individuals who do not have proof of having any nationality, but do have links to more than one State by birth, descent, marriage or habitual residence, or are perceived and treated by the authorities in the State of residence as having such links.

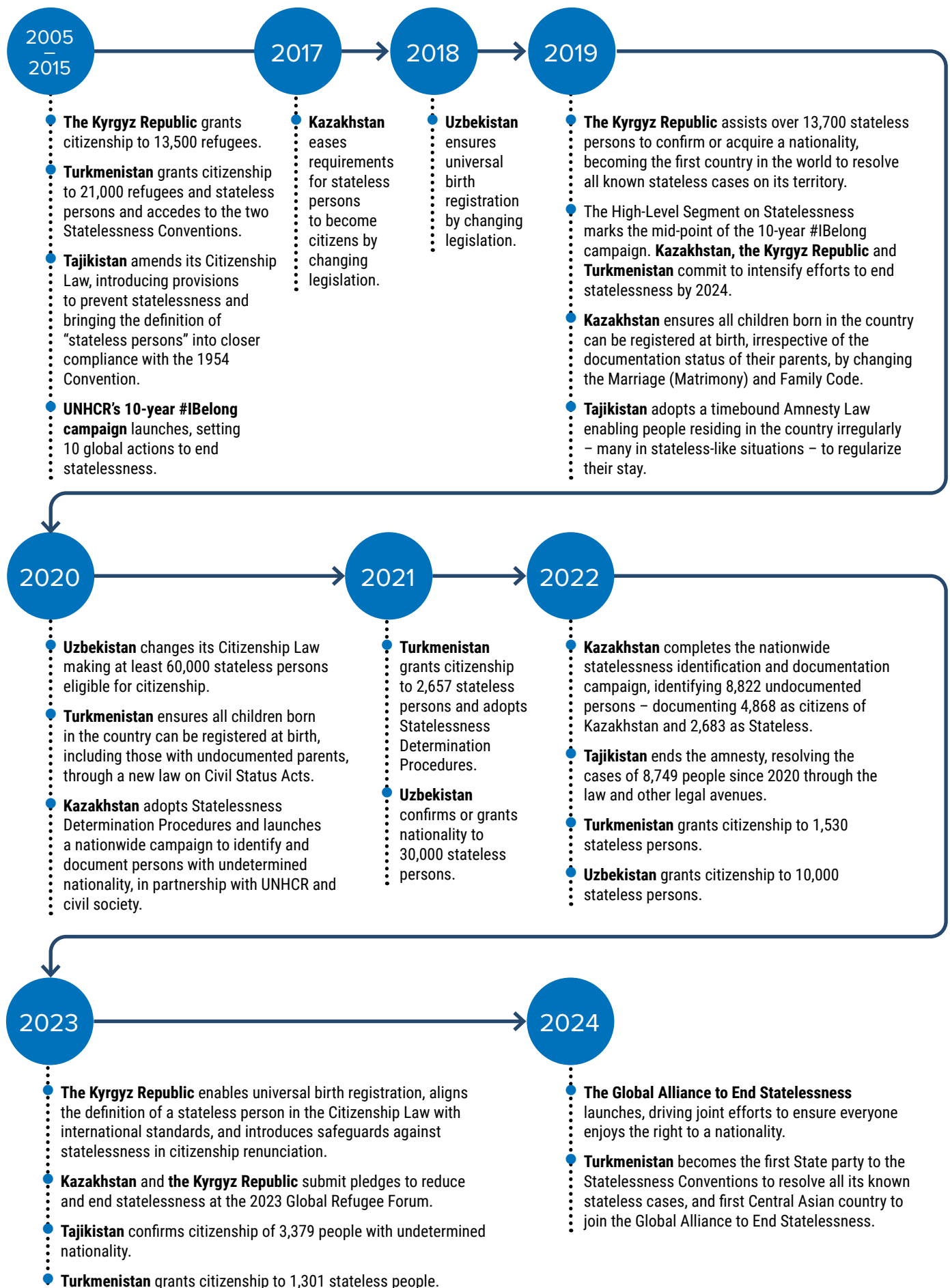
## UN Conventions on Statelessness

The **1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons** and the **1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness** are the key international conventions addressing statelessness. Both are complemented by international human rights treaties and provisions relevant to the right to a nationality. Turkmenistan is the only Central Asian country signatory to the UN Conventions on Statelessness.



# TIMELINE

## of Statelessness Reduction and Prevention





## Ending Statelessness in Central Asia

For over a decade Central Asian States, supported by UNHCR, have made significant progress in reducing and preventing statelessness on their territories. As only States can grant or confirm nationality, their cooperation in preventing and reducing statelessness is crucial.

Launched in 2014, the global **#IBelong campaign** aimed to end statelessness within ten years. During this time, the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan became the first countries in the world to end statelessness, showing that statelessness is solvable.



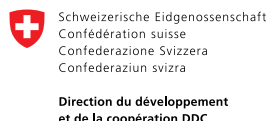
By reducing and preventing statelessness, Central Asian States are ensuring that everyone has a nationality, can access their basic rights and services, and can contribute to the sustainable development of their societies.

Building on the concrete gains and momentum of the #IBelong campaign, the **Global Alliance to End Statelessness** is a new multistakeholder initiative to advance solutions through a collective approach, which centres on the experience of those who are stateless and formerly stateless. The Global Alliance will serve as a platform to increase advocacy efforts, catalyse political commitments to address the issue, and support the implementation of solutions to end statelessness.

UNHCR partners continue reaching out and providing legal advice and assistance to help stateless people, those with undetermined nationality, and those at risk of statelessness, to confirm or obtain citizenship.

**Because no one should be made to feel invisible.  
And everyone has the right to say 'I Belong'.**

With thanks to our donors:



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People who are stateless and in need of information or consultation can find key contacts on [unhcr.org/ibelong/are-you-stateless](https://unhcr.org/ibelong/are-you-stateless)



October 2024