



BIRTH REGISTRATION

Most, but not all of us, have had our births registered

Most, but not all of us, take the benefits of birth registration for granted

Those who have not had their births registered can face severe disadvantages accessing school, healthcare, etc.

They may even be at risk of statelessness



European
Network on
Statelessness



A HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATION

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recognises every child's right to "be registered immediately after birth".

Almost universally ratified, the CRC sets out the human rights of all children.



A DEVELOPMENT GOAL

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to achieve "legal identity for all, including birth registration".

Adopted in September 2015, the SDGs are the global development agenda for the next 15 years.



A RECORD OF BIRTH

Birth registration creates an official record of a child's existence, including name, date and place of birth, as well as details of the parents. These are key aspects of identity and can be critical to establishing the child's nationality.



A TOOL TO END STATELESSNESS

The lack of birth registration is not the same as statelessness, but it heightens the risk of statelessness. If you are unable to prove where you were born or who your parents are, you may have difficulty proving your nationality.

SOME GROUPS ARE AT HEIGHTENED RISK OF NOT HAVING THEIR BIRTHS REGISTERED. THESE SAME GROUPS ARE AT HEIGHTENED RISK OF STATELESSNESS:



MINORITIES

Minority groups in some European countries, including the Roma, are less likely to have their birth registered. Systemic barriers to birth registration include discriminatory legislation and policies as well as prejudicial attitudes of officials. Parents may also lack awareness of the importance of birth registration or may face practical obstacles such as the need to travel or to pay fees. Finally, parents who lack their own documentation may face additional hurdles when trying to register their children.



REFUGEES AND IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

Children born in displacement are also at risk of not having their births registered. This may be because parents who have irregularly migrated, fear any contact with state authorities. It may be because when babies are born on the move, it is more difficult to establish all the facts of birth. It can also be because of lack of awareness of the parents, who are in unfamiliar surroundings.

- 👉 **States must always act in the best interests of children**
- 👉 **Children should never be punished for the mistakes of others – be it the omissions of parents or the prejudices of authorities**
- 👉 **All children must have their births registered and must enjoy the right to a nationality**
- 👉 **No child should be left stateless, least of all, because their birth was not registered**

ACT NOW, TO ACHIEVE IMMEDIATE, FREE AND UNIVERSAL BIRTH REGISTRATION IN EUROPE AND ERADICATE ONE KEY CAUSE OF CHILDHOOD STATELESSNESS FOREVER. DEMAND THAT YOUR COUNTRY PROTECTS EVERY CHILD BY REGISTERING EVERY BIRTH.

Find out more: www.statelesskids.eu