



European
Network on
Statelessness



**IMPACT
REPORT 2018**

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Chris Nash

CHRIS NASH, DIRECTOR

With a new European Parliament and Commission about to take office, now is a pivotal moment for us to step up our call for bold action on statelessness if Europe is to continue its traditions of freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights.

During 2018 we grew our staff team to five and our membership to over 140, now covering 40 countries across Europe. It is particularly exciting to have welcomed several community-led organisations to our Network. Working alongside stateless people to inform and deliver our mission is a key pillar of our new five-year strategy as we seek to strengthen and diversify the voices speaking out on statelessness.

The development of our 2019-23 strategic plan 'Solving Statelessness in Europe' was crafted in close consultation with staff, trustees and members and was a key output over the last 12 months. The process was also informed by an external evaluation of our work to date which found that we have filled a critical gap in mobilising key actors and quickly established ourselves as a respected, credible and effective voice.

As outlined in this impact report, 2018 was a busy and important year for us in transitioning to our new strategy while delivering a wide range of projects and launching our Statelessness Index. Approaching the half-way point of the UN Refugee Agency's ambitious ten-year #IBelong campaign to eradicate statelessness globally, now is also an opportune time to reflect on what remains to be done in our region. Ultimately, we want to see a Europe where all states have effective legal frameworks in place to protect stateless people and prevent new cases of statelessness arising.

This will not be easy against a political landscape increasingly characterised by anti-migrant sentiment, securitisation and enforcement. But guided by our new strategic plan and propelled by the energy and commitment of our members and supporters we are well placed to build on our success to date in achieving law and policy reform necessary to improve the lives of stateless men, women and children across Europe.

Thank you for your continuing support.

WHO WE ARE

We are a civil society alliance of organisations and individual experts committed to tackling statelessness in Europe. We currently have over 140 members in 40 countries and are the only pan-regional network dedicated to working on statelessness in Europe.

The European Network on Statelessness (ENS) was founded as a coordinating body and expert resource for organisations working to promote the right to a nationality. At the heart of our strategy is an understanding of the need to mainstream and raise awareness about statelessness and nationality rights, build civil society's capacity to act, and be an effective catalyst for change.

Our small but dedicated London-based Secretariat coordinates the activities of our growing and diverse membership across Europe ranging from large international NGOs to grassroots and community organisations, legal advice agencies, as well as research and policy specialists.

OUR MISSION

“Everyone has the right to a nationality

We believe this must be respected and that the human rights of people who lack a nationality – stateless people – must be protected. We are dedicated to working with stateless people in Europe to advocate for their rights. We aim to reach our goals through law and policy development, awareness-raising, and capacity-building.

OUR ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT



STATELESSNESS
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STATELESSNESS INDEX – NEW TOOL TO COMPARE HOW DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ADDRESS STATELESSNESS

In March 2018 we successfully launched our Statelessness Index – a new online tool that for the first time enables instant comparison of how different countries protect stateless people and what they are doing to prevent and reduce statelessness. The Index assesses each country's approach against international norms and good practices.

Statelessness has been a largely hidden and overlooked issue. The Index not only helps fill this gap, but facilitates effective monitoring, whilst supporting governments to comply with their international and regional obligations.

In cooperation with our members, we're continuing to add new countries, bringing the present total to 18. We're also developing additional Index data, such as policy briefings, training packages and awareness raising materials.

<http://index.statelessness.eu>

STRENGTHENING OUR CO-OPERATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

As a result of our co-operation and joint work with the Council of Europe, ENS has been granted participatory status and invited to join the Conference of INGOs. This will allow the Network to further strengthen engagement with the work of the Strasbourg institutions, including to further raise the profile of statelessness with the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly as well as with other Council of Europe bodies.

In October 2018, we co-hosted a lunchtime reception with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at the Palais in Strasbourg. Whilst addressing statelessness in Europe, it was an opportunity to present our Statelessness Index and to influence the work and actions of the Council of Europe with high profile speakers.

During the meeting we received strong endorsements from senior Council of Europe officials and national parliamentarians, who pledged to work with us on finding practical solutions to address statelessness.

ENS continues to commit to the ongoing process to develop a Council of Europe Action Plan on protecting refugee and migrant children, including actions that ensure every child's right to a nationality. This action plan has been partly shaped by stakeholder and civil society initiatives, such as the ENS #StatelessKids campaign and the UNHCR #IBelong campaign, which helped secure the inclusion of an action on every child's right to a nationality.



Strasbourg, October 2018 – Launch of our Statelessness Index at the Council of Europe. Speakers included Doris Fiala (Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and D), Christos Giakoumopoulos (Director General of the Directorate of Human Rights and Rule of Law), Ksenija Turković (Judge of the Court of Human Rights) and Chris Nash (ENS Director).

STATELESSNESS: A MINORITY ISSUE

Globally, minorities are at particular risk of statelessness. In fact, two-thirds of the world's stateless are minorities. In Europe, many Roma, despite being nationals under the letter of the law, struggle to prove links to their home country, due to discrimination, marginalisation and lack of access to justice.

As part of our #RomaBelong regional advocacy strategy, we took part in the UN Forum on Minority Issues, which focused on statelessness. We spoke about minority women and children affected by statelessness, calling for an intersectional approach to addressing statelessness as a minority issue, whilst also highlighting the impact of risks of statelessness on Roma women and children. We have welcomed, and will follow up, the UN Special Rapporteur's focus on the issue, and in particular his report to the UN General Assembly.

#ROMABELONG: TACKLING ROMA STATELESSNESS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS & UKRAINE

Set up in 2016, the #RomaBelong project is a joint initiative by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) and ENS to alert governments and institutions in the Western Balkans and further afield to focus much-needed attention on statelessness among Roma communities.

In January, we participated in the European Commission's (DG NEAR) consultations to inform its Enlargement Progress Reports and ensure that Roma statelessness is addressed as part of the discussion on fundamental rights. In February, #RomaBelong project partners made a joint submission to the Special Rapporteur on racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia for her thematic report on racial and ethnic based discrimination through nationality and citizenship exclusion. In February, we attended a Roma Integration 2020 workshop in Berlin, with government officials, Roma civil society representatives and other key stakeholders to discuss how to address discrimination and anti-gypsyism in the enlargement region.

In June we published a new report in our #RomaBelong series, a country study focusing on Albania. Coupled with an individual complaint lodged by ERRC and the Tirana Legal Aid Society before the Human Rights Committee, and a wider push at the regional level, this should serve as a reminder to Albanian authorities to translate their commitments into actions.

New joint #RomaBelong research, published in September on Ukraine, warns that Roma in the country remain caught between rising violence, institutional racism and state policy failings, and are being further marginalised by the risk of statelessness. We remain involved with our #RomaBelong partners as we lead on the regional advocacy work to stamp out Roma statelessness.



Strasbourg, October 2018 – #RomaBelong workshop identified the need for a blended approach to tackle the issue, recognising the important role of legal tools but also acknowledging that anti-gypsyism is a root cause of statelessness among Roma.

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Displaced Persons),
ate on
the European

HELPING TO SHAPE THE EU RESPONSE TO STATELESSNESS

We continue to work with key actors at the EU level through our advocacy channels and relationships we have developed. A key objective is for statelessness to be better mainstreamed and addressed in new instruments.

In May the European Parliament approved the Resolution on the Protection of Children in Migration, which, among other things, calls on Member States to ensure that childhood statelessness is adequately addressed in national laws. We were pleased that our strong collaboration with the Intergroup on Children's Rights on our #StatelessKids campaign helped result in childhood statelessness being included in the Resolution.

In a new non-legislative resolution adopted in November, Members of the European Parliament called on the Commission to develop a directive on minimum standards for minorities in the EU to ensure their rights are respected and to stop discrimination of member states against minorities. The resolution includes a call on EU countries to address the marginalisation of Roma people in Europe, by ending statelessness and guaranteeing that they fully retain their fundamental human rights.

In July we helped facilitate a UNHCR and European Migration Network roundtable bringing together government representatives to assess progress and galvanise action in implementing the 2015 European Council Conclusions on Statelessness.

ADDRESSING STATELESSNESS IN EUROPE'S REFUGEE RESPONSE

Statelessness is an overlooked and often invisible issue playing out in the context of refugee arrivals to Europe every day. Yet, our joint #StatelessJourneys project with ISI shows that stateless refugees are more likely to experience discrimination and adverse treatment due to the failure of states to properly identify or take their nationality problems into account.

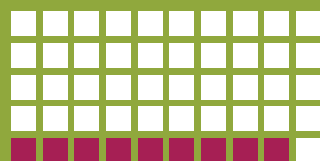
In 2018 we have successfully carried out initial research, and laid the foundations to move into the next phase of our project focused on advocacy and knowledge-transfer, to build the capacity of communities, civil society, national and regional actors to address the gaps and challenges identified. To support this work we've successfully launched a new #StatelessJourneys website (<https://statelessjourneys.org>) providing a series of new tools to secure the protection of stateless refugees and migrants, and to prevent new cases of statelessness arising in Europe.

A NETWORK OF OVER 140 MEMBERS

During 2018 we welcomed ten new members to our network, four of which are community-led organisations working on statelessness. This trend continues into 2019, strengthening our ability to collaborate with individuals and groups affected by statelessness.

In October 2018 we organised our fifth Annual General Conference, attended by 48 members, during which we consulted on our new strategic plan and provided training workshops.

The conference was followed by a two-day #RomaBelong workshop on statelessness and access to citizenship rights. A core group of #RomaBelong project partners and ENS members were joined by Roma-led organisations as well as stakeholders from UNHCR, OSCE, the EU and the Council of Europe.

The logo for 'STATELESS JOURNEYS' features a stylized white arrow pointing right, composed of two overlapping shapes, set against a blue square background. To the right of this icon, the words 'STATELESS' and 'JOURNEYS' are stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font, all contained within an orange rectangular box.

Only **9 European States** have dedicated legal frameworks in place to determine statelessness and grant stateless people protection.



Syrian Kurdish refugees take ferry to Athens – The fact that a refugee is also stateless is often critical when assessing their asylum claim and ensuring that their particular protection needs are met. Our #StatelessJourneys work in Greece, Serbia, the Netherlands and across the continent is addressing current gaps in Europe's refugee response (Photo: © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell)

“ I cannot register them at school or any hospital. I have only the two boys. I only want to register my two boys...

ELSA, MUM TO ERALDO AND ELISI LIVING IN ALBANIA



1000+

Children in Albania will have their birth registered, reducing the risk of statelessness.

OUR WORK ON THE GROUND: REMOVING BARRIERS TO BIRTH REGISTRATION IN ALBANIA

In Albania, more than a thousand children are growing up unregistered and stateless. Our member, Tirana Legal Aid Society (TLAS), has been working tirelessly to help parents secure a nationality for their children.

Last October, following years of concerted efforts to change the law, the Albanian parliament adopted amendments which remove barriers to birth registration. This reduces the risk of childhood statelessness, in particular for children of Albanian parents born outside the country and for children of the minority Roma and Egyptian communities. The amendments follow a recent mapping study by UNHCR done jointly with TLAS, as well as our #StatelessKids campaign which focused on Albania, and our #RomaBelong project to tackle Roma statelessness in the region.

OUR STAFF & TRUSTEES

ENS has a small but dedicated Secretariat based at our London office, tasked with coordination and development of the Network.

STAFF

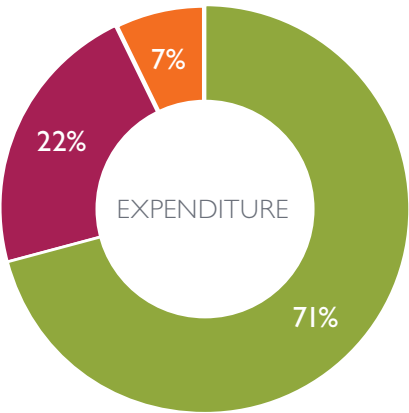
- CHRIS NASH – Director
- NINA MURRAY – Head of Policy & Research
- JAN BRULC – Head of Communications
- ELIZABETH ODETTE – Operations Manager
- KHADIJA BADRI – Advocacy and Engagement Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

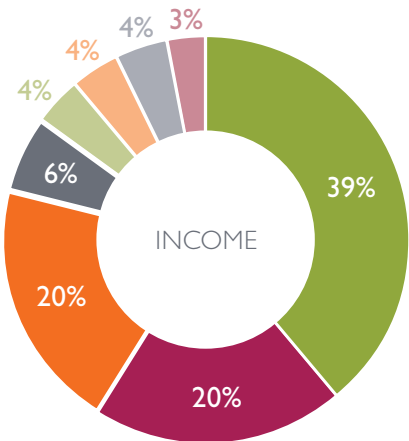
ENS has an active Board of Trustees currently made up of eight members, responsible for overseeing the governance of the charity. They are:

- STEFANIE GRANT – An experienced human rights lawyer
- GÁBOR GYULAI – Refugee Programme Manager at the Hungarian Helsinki Committee
- JACK HERIZ-SMITH – Corporate Partnerships & Engagement Manager at Shelter
- IVANKA KOSTIC – Founder and Executive Director of Praxis, Serbia
- ALLAN LEAS (CHAIR) – An experienced human rights professional, formerly ECRE Secretary General
- DANIEL O'CONNOR (TREASURER) – An experienced banker, recently Deputy Treasurer for HSBC Offshore
- JAMES WODESON – Founder & Coach, Woodeson Kesby Organisational Coaching
- MAURICE WREN – Chief Executive of the British Refugee Council

FINANCES



- Staff
- Activities & Project Costs
- Governance & Core Costs



- UNHCR – Europe
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Oak Foundation
- Open Society Foundation
- Other income
- Open Society Initiative for Europe
- EPIM
- Robbins Family Charitable Fund

The information below covers the period between 1 January to 31 December 2018 and is an extract from our full annual financial statement, which was approved by the ENS Board of Trustees on 2 May 2019. This underwent Independent Financial Examination, and has been submitted to the Charity Commission. For further information, please consult the full financial statement, the Independent Examiner’s Report and the Trustees’ annual report which are available from ENS on request.

	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total funds (£)
BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2018	66,551	33,819	100,370
INCOME			
Grants received	122,500	180,576	303,076
Other voluntary income	1,788	-	1,788
TOTAL INCOME	124,288	180,576	304,864
EXPENDITURE			
Charitable activities	74,844	169,230	244,074
Governance costs	1,260	-	1,260
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	76,104	169,230	245,334
Transfers between Funds	(3,449)	3,449	-
TOTAL FUNDS 31 DECEMBER 2018	111,286*	48,614**	159,900

* Part of these funds (£83,500) comprise monies which are required to be expended by 31 March and 31 July 2019.

** These funds comprise monies from grants periods 2018 -19, which are required to be expended by 31 December 2019.

WE WORK TO END STATELESSNESS IN EUROPE



More than half a million people living in Europe are stateless.

Statelessness is a major human rights problem in Europe, yet for far too long it was ignored, with relatively little known about its causes, consequences and who it affects.

More than half a million people living in Europe are stateless – not only recent migrants and refugees, but also people whose families have lived in the same place for generations. Many stateless people find themselves stranded on the margins of society, at risk of discrimination and human rights abuses. For them, this translates into denial of the basic rights we take for granted: to go to school or work, to get married or register the birth of your child, to ‘legally exist’.

OUR MEMBERS

We are a civil society alliance of organisations and individual experts committed to tackling statelessness in Europe. Our Network has developed rapidly since we launched in 2012, attracting over 140 members in 40 countries. We are the only pan-regional network dedicated to working on statelessness in Europe.



Advisory Committee members

ASKV Refugee Support, Netherlands * Consonant, UK * European Roma Rights Centre * Forum Réfugiés-Cosi, France * Fundación CEPAIM, Spain * Halina Nieć Legal Aid Center, Poland * Hungarian Helsinki Committee * Immigrant Council of Ireland * Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Netherlands * Latvian Centre for Human Rights * Open Society Justice Initiative * Praxis, Serbia * Right to Protection, Ukraine * Adrian Berry, UK * Hilka Becker, Ireland * Jyothi Kanics, Switzerland * Katja Swider, UK

Individual associate members

Aija Lulle, UK * Aleksandra Semerjak, Spain * Alison Harvey, UK * Andrea Saccucci, Italy * Arsenio Cores, Spain * Aurelia Alvarez Rodriguez, Spain * Barbara von Rutte, Switzerland * Bronwen Manby, UK * Caia Vlieks, Netherlands * Eric Fripp, UK * Erika Kalantzi, Greece * Eva Ersbøll, Denmark * Frances Meyer, UK * Guy S. Goodwin-Gill, UK * Hana Van Ooijen, Netherlands * Helena-Ulrike Marambio, Germany * Irene de Lamo Velado, Spain * Ivana Canjuga Bedic, Croatia * James C. Hathaway, USA * Jared Ficklin, UK * Jason Tucker, Sweden * Joanna Venkov, UK * Judith Beyer, Germany * Julija Sardelic, Belgium * Karel Hendriks, Netherlands * Katalin Berényi, Switzerland * Katia Bianchini, Germany * Keelin McCarthy, UK * Kelly Staples, UK * Khrystyna Kolesen, Spain * Konstantinos Tsitselikis, Greece * Leonhard Call, Austria * Lynn Al Khatib, Sweden * Manuela Sissy Brucker, Germany * Marija Dobrić, Austria * Marine Antonyan, Armenia * Maureen Lynch, USA * Maylis de Vermeuil, Albania * Michelle van Burik, Netherlands * Mike Sanderson, UK * Mónica Ganczer, Belgium * Nando Sigona, UK * Paolo Farci, Italy * Reinhard Marx, Germany * René De Groot, Netherlands * Stefanie Grant, UK * Tamas Molnar, Hungary * Thomas McGee, UK * Valeria Cherednichenko, Spain * Wout Van Doren, Belgium * Zsolt Bobis, USA

Associate member organisations

ADC Memorial, Russia * Aduit Foundation, Malta * AIRE Centre, UK * Archway Foundation, Romania * Association for Integration and Migration, Czech Republic * Association for Juridical Studies on Immigration, Italy * Association for Legal Intervention, Poland * Asylkoordination, Austria * Austrian Diakonie Refugee Service * Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, UK * Bail for Immigration Detainees, UK * Bairska Svetlina - Centre for Development of Roma Community, North Macedonia * British Red Cross * Caritas Vienna, Austria * Catalan Commission for Refugees, Spain * CCME - Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe * Centre for Refugee Support, Belarus * Civic Assistance Committee for Refugees, Russia * Civil Rights Program Kosovo * Civil Rights Project Sisak, Croatia * Coram Children's Legal Centre, UK * Cyprus Refugee Council * Danish Refugee Council * Detention Action, UK * Equal Rights Trust, UK * Faith, Hope, and Love, Russia * Foundation for Access to Rights, Bulgaria * Future Worlds Center, Cyprus * Global Citizenship Observatory (GLOBALCIT) * Greek Council for Refugees * Greek Forum of Refugees * Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Poland * Human Rights League, Slovak Republic * Humanrights.ch, Switzerland * Immigration Law Practitioners' Association, UK * Information Legal Centre, Croatia * Innovations and Reforms Center, Georgia * Italian Council for Refugees * Jesuit Migrant Service, Spain * Jesuit Refugee Service Romania * Kerk in Actie, Netherlands * Law Center of Advocates, Moldova * Legal Center Montenegro * Legal Clinic for Refugees and Immigrants, Bulgaria * Legal Information Centre for Human Rights, Estonia * Lithuanian Red Cross Society * Liverpool University Law Clinic, UK * Macedonian Young Lawyers Association * Migrants' Rights Network, UK * NANSEN, Belgium * New Women Connectors, Netherlands * Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers * Norwegian Refugee Council * Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU), Czech Republic * Peace Institute, Slovenia * People for Change Foundation, Malta * Portuguese Refugee Council * Public Law Project, UK * Refugee Action, UK * Refugee Council, UK * Refugee Law Clinic Bochum, Germany * Refugee Law Clinic Cologne, Germany * Refugee Rights Turkey * Refugees International, USA * Roma Active Albania * Roma Lawyers Association, North Macedonia * Roma Veritas Kosovo * SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights, UK * Scottish Detainee Visitors, UK * Scottish Refugee Council, UK * Swedish Network of Refugee Support Groups * Terre Des Hommes Foundation Kosovo * Tenth of April, Ukraine * Tirana Legal Aid Society, Albania * University of Strathclyde Law Clinic, UK * Vasa Prava, Bosnia and Herzegovina * Vitality, Moldova * Walk with us - Phiren amenca, Montenegro

ENS wishes to acknowledge the support of Oak Foundation, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Robbins Family Charitable Fund, the Open Society Foundations, EPIM and the UN Refugee Agency.



SIGRID RAUSING TRUST



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS



European Programme
for Integration
and Migration



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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