

Campaign to End Statelessness

Global Action Plan: 2014 - 2024

Overview

**Course on the Essential Elements for the Identification,
Protection, Prevention and Reduction of
Statelessness in the Americas**

12 February 2015



UNHCR

The UN
Refugee Agency

Katie Tobin, UNHCR Senior Protection Associate

unhcr.org/statelessness

4 November 2014



**UNHCR launched its Global Campaign to
End Statelessness in 10 Years**



#IBELONG



10 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD
HAVE NO NATIONALITY

Join us in our campaign to end statelessness



UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency

Open Letter to End Statelessness

Addressed to world governments, the High Commissioner's Open Letter will bring to light the stigma and injustice of statelessness. Endorsed by the UN Secretary-General and signed by high profile dignitaries, influencers, human rights activists and lawyers, former government leaders and members of the public, we are hoping to reach

10 million signatures in 10 years

Signatories thus far include:

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

SE Angelina Jolie Shirin Ebadi

Carla Del Ponte Louise Arbour

Juan Mendez Hina Jilani

HE Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

Adama Dieng Anthony Lake

Fernando Henrique Cardoso

Lakhdar Brahimi Khaled Hosseini

Lifetime GWA Barbara Hendricks

JOIN THE OPEN LETTER INITIATIVE

#IBELONG to a world where everyone has the right to a nationality.

000003005

The open letter

In ten years, we want to ensure that every human being on earth will have the ability to utter this simple phrase.

The appalling reality is that there are millions of people who do not officially belong ANYWHERE. They are stateless - without a nationality or a homeland, unable to access the same basic rights and services that you and I take for granted.

To end this inhumane practice, the UN Refugee Agency is launching a campaign to rid the world of statelessness - a scourge affecting at least ten million people. Although numbering in the millions and living in every country worldwide, they are denied a universal human right. These women, men and children are living in the shadows: invisible, voiceless, pushed to margins of society.

JOIN

Sign the open letter and take part of the #IBELONG world



Sign Up with Facebook



Sign Up with Twitter

We will never post to Twitter or Facebook without your permission.

Thousands have signed on to the Global Campaign, including...

António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Angelina Jolie, UNHCR Special Envoy

Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former President of Brazil

Madeleine Albright, former US Secretary of State

Barbara Hendricks, UNHCR Honorary Goodwill Ambassador

Juan E. Méndez, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

Marco Airoldi, Chief Executive Officer of the Benetton Group

Oswaldo Laport, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador (Argentina)

Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch

Khaled Hosseini, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador (USA)

Alek Wek, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador (USA)

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF

Campaign Microsite

ibelong.unhcr.org

Created by the Benetton Group



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

[Sign the Open Letter](#) | [Your Support](#) | [Stories](#) | [Are you stateless?](#)



#IBELONG

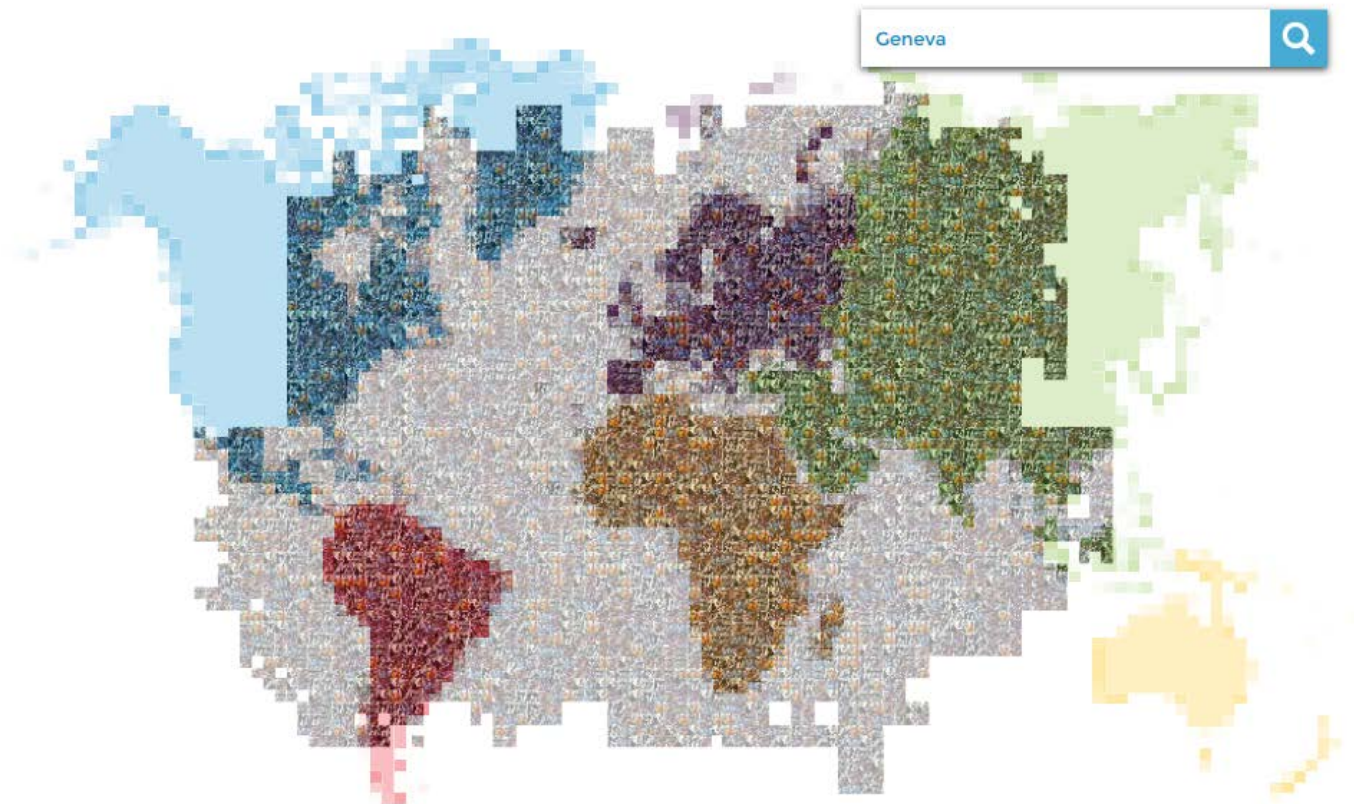
To a world where everyone has the right to a nationality. Today 10 million people around the world are told they don't belong ANYWHERE. They are denied a nationality and other basic human rights. You can help change their lives.

[SIGN THE OPEN LETTER](#)

#IBELONG Interactive Map



[Take Action](#) | [Globe](#) | [Stories](#) | [Open Letter](#) | [Are you stateless?](#)



On 17 November 2014 The Campaign launched in the Americas



***“Out of the Shadows: Ending
Statelessness in the Americas”***

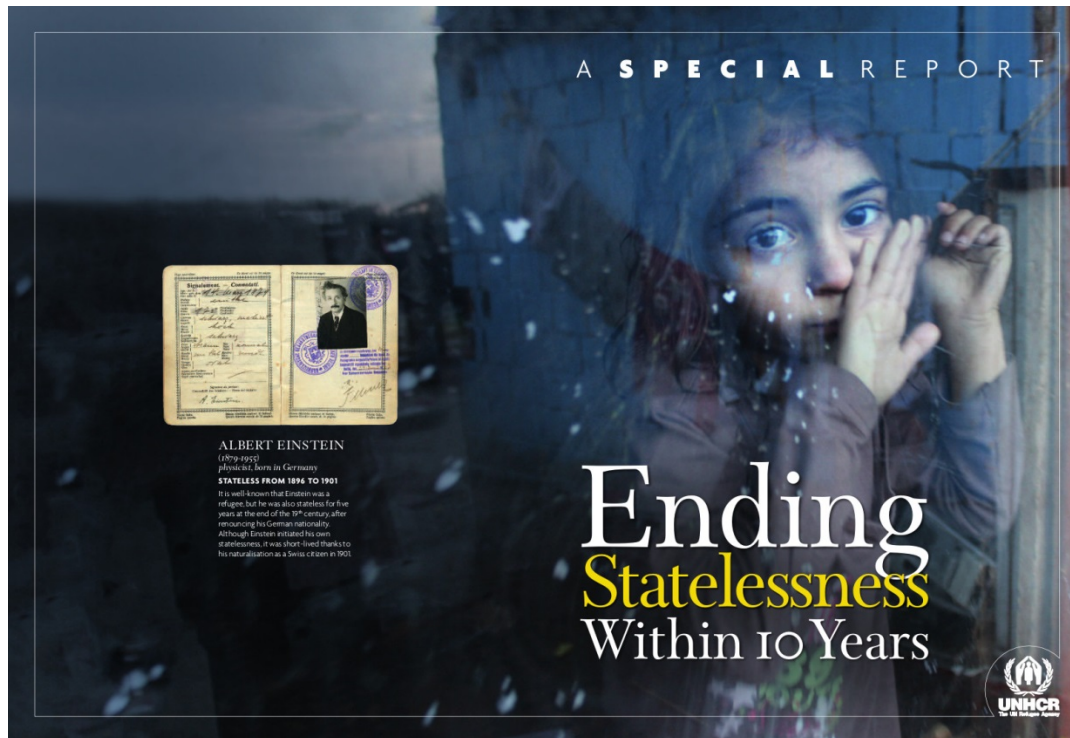
The Newseum, Washington, DC

<http://youtu.be/1ygeXwoTOAw>

What is the Global Action Plan: 2014 –2024?

Establishes a guiding framework of 10 Actions to be undertaken by States to end statelessness in 10 years.

Developed in consultation with a wide range of States, UN Agencies, International Organizations and NGOs.



A SPECIAL REPORT

Ending Statelessness Within 10 Years

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

ALBERT EINSTEIN
(1879-1955)
physicist, born in Germany

STATELESS FROM 1896 TO 1901
It is well known that Einstein was a refugee, but he was also stateless for five years at the end of the 19th century after renouncing his German nationality. Although Einstein initiated his own citizenship, it was short-lived thanks to his renunciation as a Swiss citizen in 1901.

The Goal

“To bring an end to statelessness within 10 years by resolving existing situations and preventing the emergence of new cases of statelessness.”

- An ambitious goal?
 - By setting this objective UNHCR hopes that the objective above will become a catalyst for action.
 - Political will and commitment are necessary ingredients.
 - In the last decade 4 million stateless people have acquired a nationality.

The 10 Actions



1. Resolve existing situations of statelessness.
2. Ensure that no child is born stateless.
3. Remove gender discrimination from nationality laws.
4. Prevent denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds.
5. Prevent statelessness in cases of State succession.
6. Grant protection status to stateless migrants and facilitate their naturalization.
7. Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness.
8. Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it.
9. Accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions.
10. Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations.

The 10 Actions

- Each Action includes a Starting Point, Milestones and the Goal to be achieved by 2024.
 - e.g. Action 3: Remove gender discrimination from nationality laws

STARTING POINT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27 States have nationality laws which do not allow women to confer nationality to their children on an equal basis as men.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than 60 States have nationality laws which do not allow women and men to acquire, change or retain their nationality on an equal basis.
MILESTONES	By 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 States introduce reforms to their nationality laws to allow women to confer their nationality to their children on an equal basis as men.• 20 States introduce reforms to their nationality laws to allow women to acquire, change and retain their nationality on an equal basis as men.	By 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An additional 10 States (20 in total since 2014) introduce reforms to their nationality laws to allow women to confer nationality to their children on an equal basis as men.• An additional 20 States (40 in total since 2014) introduce reforms to their nationality laws to allow women to acquire, change and retain their nationality on an equal basis as men.
GOAL BY 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All States have nationality laws which treat women and men equally with regard to conferral of nationality to their children and with regard to the acquisition, change and retention of nationality.	

Methodology

Each Action sets out:

- The **context** to the problem, which the Action aims to address;
- Practical suggestions for how the **Action can be implemented**;
- What **UNHCR can do to help**;
- Circumstances which **facilitate implementation**;
- Any **obstacles**

The Role of States

- States are encouraged to undertake Actions by developing and implementing National Action Plans or other effective mechanisms.
- The causes, profile and magnitude of statelessness vary – not all Actions will be relevant in all countries.
- National Actions Plans can:
 - Be developed through consultation with UNHCR, UN and development actors, civil society and stateless groups
 - Select relevant Actions
 - Set out detailed strategies
 - Establish country-level milestones and goals
 - Sample template provided in Annex I of the Global Action Plan

UNHCR's Role

- Support States to identify relevant Actions, improve data on each and establish what needs to be done to implement these pursuant to National Action Plans, where relevant.
- Provide the detailed assistance outlined for each Action.
- Promote the exchange of good practices.
- Undertake sustained awareness-raising.
- Report on implementation of the Global Action Plan every two years.
- Continue to work with States and other actors to implement all parts of its statelessness mandate in accordance with GA resolutions and ExCom Conclusion 106.

The Role of Other Actors

- Cooperation with other Actors is critical to achieve the goals of the Global Action Plan.
 - e.g. Action 7 – Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness
- UN Agencies, International Organizations and civil society groups have been consulted and are referred to in specific Actions.

Resources

- An additional USD 2 million allocated to implement the Global Action Plan in 2015.
- Seeds for Solutions – USD 1 million allocated to 4 operations in 2014 and USD 2 million in 2015
- More than 20 UNHCR statelessness specialists deployed globally.
- Fundraising and donor support will be essential in the future.

“Statelessness is a profound violation of an individual’s human rights. It would be deeply unethical to perpetuate the pain it causes when solutions are so clearly within reach. The Global Action Plan sets out a definitive strategy to put a definitive end to this human suffering within 10 years. I count on your support to make this ambitious goal a reality”

António Guterres
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees