

Request of Inclusion: The Rights of Stateless Individuals

Dear esteemed members of the programme Committee,

Greetings from the Stateless Rights Collective (SRC), established by diverse stateless backgrounds individuals living in the Netherlands, supported by ASKV Steunpunt Vluchtelingen (<https://www.askv.nl/>) and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) (<https://www.institutesi.org>), aiming for our voices to resonate at both national and international levels. Hereby, we would like to draw your attention to our situation, with the aspiration to consider our case in your programme for the upcoming elections. We highlight that most of us have been in the Netherlands for a long time with our children, some of them were born and raised here. However, they are still without a residence permit due to complex procedures.

The new legislation

Referring to the Dutch Parliament's approval of the implementation of a Statelessness Determination Procedure on the 6th of June was initially promising. Regrettably, even recognized stateless individuals will not receive residence permits accordingly even though we have no other place to call home. Such approach stands in contradiction to international norms. For many, the prolonged wait times for procedures, such as the "Buitenschuld-procedure", translate into years of isolation due to the lack of integration into society, a waste of potential as a result of our inability to work and restricted mobility, consequently wasting a huge part of our life with ambiguous future. Our concerns also extend to our children's jeopardized basic human rights. While the new law offers an avenue for stateless children to gain nationality, stringent requirements make it largely inaccessible.

The proposed solutions

Given the gravity of the aforementioned issues, we respectfully propose:

1. Granting immediate residence permits to recognised stateless individuals;
2. Time-bound protocol for the Buitenschuld-procedure considering statelessness;
3. Easier nationality access for our children born in the Netherlands;
4. Structured integration program for stateless individuals, including Dutch language lessons.

Based on your Party's orientation to support vulnerable people, we are optimistic about your willingness to include our cause in your program. If not your Party, who else will stand up for our rights? Your time and consideration are highly appreciated and we fervently hope for your support in securing a brighter and more inclusive future for all stateless individuals in the Netherlands. We would be happy for deeper and further engagement on this matter.

We can be reached at src.netherlands@gmail.com.

Warm regards,

Stateless Rights Collective