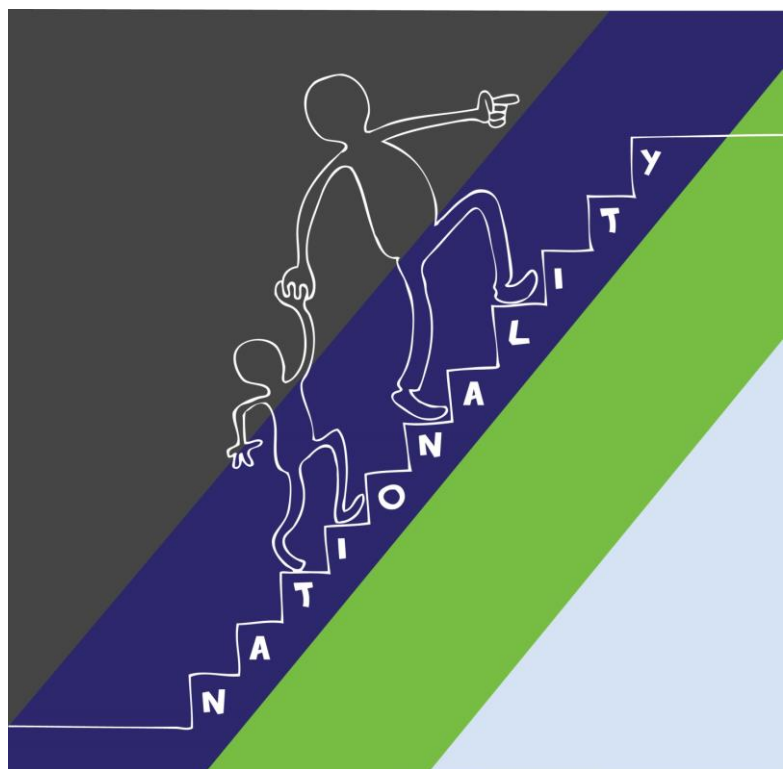


# Addressing the Right to a Nationality through the Convention on the Rights of the Child

A Toolkit for Civil Society

## Section 10: Glossary of Key Terms and List of Abbreviations & Acronyms



# 10. Glossary of Key Terms and List of Abbreviations & Acronyms

## Glossary of Key Terms

<b>Acquisition of nationality</b>	Becoming a legal citizen of a State through any mode. This can be either be at/subsequent to birth or later in life. It can happen automatically or non-automatically.
<b>Arbitrary Deprivation of Nationality</b>	The involuntary loss of the status of a national of a country, in a manner which violates international norms, e.g. those relating to non-discrimination or due process.
<b>Child</b>	“Every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” – Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1.
<b>Childhood Statelessness</b>	Situation in which a child is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law. Commonly the consequence of inability to acquire nationality at birth, but also following the loss or renunciation of nationality.
<b>Citizen</b>	See 'National'
<b>Citizenship</b>	See 'Nationality'
<b>Civil society submission</b>	Reports delivered by civil society actors (e.g. NGOs) to a Treaty Body as part of the UN reporting cycle. These provide the treaty body with information such as comments on the State Party report, additional issues that are not yet addressed, and how its recommendations are being implemented by the government concerned.
<b>Committee on the Rights of the Child</b>	Body of independent experts tasked with the assessment of the implementation of the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by States. The Committee also has the authority to give guidance and interpretation regarding the articles of the CRC in the form of General Comments (see below).
<b>Concluding Observations</b>	Treaty bodies' summary of the assesment of progress as well as deficits in the implementation of the content of a treaty in a particular country, as well as recommendations relating to improving the situation in relation to the rights protected under the relevant treaty.
<b>Contracting Party</b>	A country which has ratified a particular treaty, thereby consenting to be bound by the obligations specified therein.
<b>Foundling</b>	A child of unknown parentage who has been deserted or abandoned.
<b>General Comment</b>	Authoritative interpretations of individual human rights obligations issued by the relevant treaty body, thereby filling the rights with meaning and providing states with guidance on how to respect, protect and fulfil them.
<b>General Principles</b>	Basic legal rules of a relative general and abstract nature, including but not limited to such principles that are common across a large number of jurisdictions.

<b>Implementing Measures</b>	In relation to a Convention, implementing measures are general measures, including legislative, administrative, and other measures which States are expected to undertake in order to fully implement the rights set forth by the Convention.
<b>Irregular Migrant</b>	See 'undocumented migrant'
<b>List of Issues</b>	A list adopted by a Treaty Body concerning questions on selected issues, as well as a request for updates on new laws, institutions, policies, programmes, ratifications of human rights treaties and disaggregated data and statistics, that is sent to a country right after its corresponding pre-session.
<b>Loss or Deprivation of Nationality</b>	Involuntary loss of the status as national of a country. This can be automatic (loss) or non-automatic (deprivation).
<b>National</b>	An individual who holds the nationality of a State. This is used synonymously with 'citizen' within this Toolkit, although there may be variations under domestic law.
<b>Nationality</b>	The legal bond between an individual and a State that entails belonging and specific legal responsibilities and rights. This is used synonymously with 'citizenship' in this Toolkit, although there may exist significant differences under domestic law.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Suggestions made by a treaty body as part of the Concluding Observations (see above) about what States can do in light of the fulfilment of their obligations under a specific treaty.
<b>Refugee</b>	"A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it" – 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Article 1
<b>Renunciation of Nationality</b>	The voluntary loss of the status as national of a country, often as part of efforts to acquire another nationality.
<b>Reporting Cycle</b>	The process through which the progress that States make in fulfilling their obligations under a treaty is monitored by the relevant treaty body. Each cycle includes certain steps, such as the contribution of State reports (see State Party report below), additional information provided by civil society actors, discussion of the reports during Session (see below), all culminating in the adoption of Concluding Observations (see above).
<b>Session</b>	Discussion of the State Party report (see below) and additional civil society provided information by the relevant treaty body and the State concerned as part of the reporting cycle.
<b>Special Procedures</b>	Independent human rights experts who are mandated to report and advise on human rights on the basis of either a thematic or a country-specific focus.
<b>State Party</b>	See 'Contracting Party'.
<b>State Party Report</b>	A report containing State provided information with regard to the rights contained in the relevant treaty. To be submitted once every five years.
<b>Stateless person</b>	"A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law" - 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, Article 1.
<b>Treaty Bodies</b>	Committees of independent experts that are tasked with the monitoring of the core

	international human rights treaties. Other functions of the Committees include the adoption of general comments (see above).
<b>Undocumented migrant</b>	A person without a residence permit authorising him/her to regularly stay in the country of destination. Such a migrant may have been unsuccessful in an asylum procedure, have overstayed their visa or have entered irregularly.
<b>Universal Periodic Review (UPR)</b>	The periodic review of the human rights records of all UN Member States, focusing on past actions. The UPR aims to create an image of the current situation and provide recommendations regarding steps to improve the human rights situation in a country.

## Abbreviations & Acronyms

<b>1954 Convention</b>	Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
<b>1961 Convention</b>	Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
<b>ACERWC</b>	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>CAT</b>	Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CERD</b>	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRC or the Committee</b>	Committee on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRMW</b>	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NHRIs</b>	National Human Rights Institutions (and Commissions)
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>OPIC</b>	Third Optional Protocol on a communications procedure
<b>The Institute or ISI</b>	Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review