What is the ISI Database on Statelessness and Human Rights?

To strengthen knowledge of, engagement with and adherence to human rights standards relating to statelessness and the right to a nationality, the ISI Database on Statelessness and Human Rights is a carefully designed and user-friendly tool that offers easy access to relevant recommendations issued to States within the UN human rights system. The database enables the user to compare and analyse the data by 'coding' the recommendations using different filters such as country, UN body and theme. As of May 2023, the database contains more than 2000 recommendations from 18 UN human rights mechanisms. More specifically, the database contains all the recommendations issued under the Universal Periodic Review and the Committee on Migrant Workers. It also contains all the recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Human Rights Committee (CCPR), the Committee Against Torture (CAT), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) since 2010. We have also taken forward populating the database with recommendations issued by nine relevant Special Procedures (SP) such as the UN Special Rapporteur on Racism and Voluntary State Pledges under the UNHCR and UPR.

Why this database?

Statelessness is the most extreme violation of the right to a nationality and has severe consequences for the enjoyment of other human rights. Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a nationality and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality. Yet, there are more than 15 million people across the globe who face a life without a nationality and every ten minutes, another child is born stateless. Moreover, while human rights law affirms the rights of _all_ people, nationality acts as a gateway through which people can access rights and services. The stateless are vulnerable to discrimination and unequal treatment. They are denied access to education, healthcare, housing, employment, social welfare and documentation, as well as the right to own property, travel, be safe, free and equal. The stateless are also disenfranchised and their exclusion is heightened by their inability to access justice, leading to a vicious circle which is difficult to break.

As part of their mandate, UN human rights mechanisms are charged with monitoring States' human rights records. These mechanisms can ultimately influence states' laws, jurisprudence, policies and practices all around the world. Consequently, they are extremely potent mechanisms to enhance the visibility of statelessness as a human rights issue, improve the enjoyment of rights by stateless persons and ensure every individual's right to a nationality. Consolidating their recommendations in one place to improve their accessibility, can feed into awareness raising, advocacy and litigation efforts regarding statelessness issues while bolstering the impact of the work of UN human rights bodies and resulting in increased momentum for action and change.

Who is this database for?

The ISI Database on Statelessness and Human Rights is an ideal tool to inform and strengthen the impact of the work of numerous key stakeholders such as members of the UN Bodies, civil society organisations, legal practitioners, academics and activists to enhance the visibility of statelessness and ensure every individual's right to a nationality. The Database enables its users, among others, to: gain a greater understanding of the scope and content of the articles in human rights conventions related to statelessness issues and utilize them along with the relevant bodies' recommendations in their advocacy and litigation work; conduct cross country research leading to concrete and holistic research findings; identify trends within a region and be more targeted in advocacy and litigation efforts; easily compare recommendations of different UN human rights bodies and identify patterns and whether they correlate or complement each other, also enabling complementary UN campaigns and processes and leading to consistent monitoring of states; address the lack of visibility of certain statelessness issues and increase advocacy efforts

Who are we?

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) is the first and only human rights NGO dedicated to working on statelessness at the global level and has emerged as the civil society focal point for the statelessness movement. We have worked tirelessly to build and strengthen the field of statelessness, with a particular focus on increasing both the visibility and presence of statelessness on the human rights agenda and amplifying the voices of stateless activists and human rights defenders through collaboration with local partners. To achieve this, ISI engages in international human rights advocacy by preparing, in collaboration with civil society partners, country submissions on nationality and statelessness issues. We have complemented this engagement with monitoring and analysis of the outcomes of human rights review processes. ISI's extensive expertise on nationality and statelessness issues globally makes us uniquely placed to collect and monitor all relevant recommendations, enabling us to offer a comprehensive dataset on this issue.

Our donors?

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