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Country context (optional)

Please use this field to provide any relevant contextual or background information about the country's law, policy, and practice, or the stateless population, to help contextualise the information in the survey (optional question).

On 31 May 2022, the House of Representatives passed two bills on statelessness, however these do not stand up to international norms and good practice on the protection of stateless people and prevention of statelessness. The first bill paves the way for the introduction of a judicial procedure to determine statelessness. The second modifies various other laws including an amendment to the Dutch Nationality Act to allow stateless children without legal residence in the Netherlands to opt for Dutch nationality after five years' 'stable and habitual' residence. While a positive step, the bills do not go far enough in resolving the issues experienced by stateless people in the Netherlands and bringing them in line with international norms and good practice. Importantly, the proposed procedure to determine statelessness does not lead to residence rights. The requirement that stateless children have 'stable and habitual' residence to opt for Dutch nationality is also not in line with international standards. The bills are currently before the Senate, before entering into force. Under the ground-breaking decision by the Human Rights Committee (28 December 2020), the Netherlands had to review, and report to the Committee within 180 days, its legislation to ensure that a procedure for determining statelessness status is established, as well as reviewing its legislation on eligibility to apply for nationality. Following the reply by the Netherlands, the Committee said that the Netherlands did not implement measures to review legislation on determining statelessness and eligibility for nationality applications (as of Dec 2022).

The legislative proposal that has been approved by Parliament in May 2022 confirms that the Netherlands intends to withdraw its reservation to Article 8 and 26 of the 1954 Convention.

International and Regional Instruments

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
IOB.1.a	1954 Convention	Is your country party to the 1954 Statelessness Convention?	UN Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954	Yes	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/008230
IOB.1.b		If yes, when was ratification/accession?		Ratification on 12 April 1962	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/008230
IOB.1.c		Are there reservations in place? Please list them.	Best practice is no reservations. If there are, they should have little or no impact on the rights of stateless people.	No, the Government of the Netherlands has withdrawn its reservations on art. 8 and art. 26 of the Convention as of 1 October 2023.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/nl/Treaty/Details/008230_b#Nederlanden Official Gazette of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Law of June 7, 2023, concerning the amendment of the Kingdom Act on Dutch nationality and the Passport Act, as well as the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, in connection with the determination of statelessness. https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stb-2023-229.html Decree of July 10, 2023, determining the date of entry into force of the law of June 7, 2023, containing provisions regarding the determination of statelessness (Law on the Procedure for Determining Statelessness) (Stb. 2023, 230) and the Kingdom Act of June 7, 2023, amending the Kingdom Act on Dutch nationality and the Passport Act, as well as withdrawing reservations to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in connection with the determination of statelessness (Stb. 2023, 229). https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stb-2023-259.html
IOB.1.d		Does the Convention have direct effect?	Best practice is that the Convention has direct effect, though this may depend on the legal regime.	Yes	Constitution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Art. 94: https://www.government.nl/documents/regulations/2012/10/18/the-constitution-of-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands-2008
IOB.2.a	1961 Convention	Is your country party to the 1961 Statelessness Convention?	UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961	Yes	Treaty Database https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/009039.html
IOB.2.b		If yes, when was ratification/accession?		Ratification on 13 May 1985	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/009039.html
IOB.2.c		Are there reservations in place? Please list them.	As above	No	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/009039_b.html
IOB.2.d		Does the Convention have direct effect?	As above	Yes	Constitution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Art. 94: https://www.government.nl/documents/regulations/2012/10/18/the-constitution-of-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands-2008
IOB.3.a	Other conventions	State party to European Convention on Nationality 1997? Please list any reservations.	European Convention on Nationality, 1997	Yes, with reservations: · Article 7(2): The Kingdom of the Netherlands declares this provision to include the loss of Dutch nationality by a child whose parents renounce Dutch nationality as referred to in Article 8 of the Convention.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/008154_b

IOB.3.b		State Party to European Convention on Human Rights 1950? Please list any relevant reservations.	European Convention on Human Rights, 1950	Yes. No reservations.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/005132_b.html
IOB.3.c		State Party to Council of Europe Convention on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to State succession 2006? Please list any reservations.	Council of Europe Convention on the Avoidance of Statelessness in Relation to State Succession, 2006	Yes. No reservations.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/011382
IOB.3.d		Bound by Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU Return Directive)? Please list any relevant reservations.	Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU Return Directive)	Yes. No reservations.	Legal and regulatory framework: http://wetten.overheid.nl/EUR20080115
IOB.3.e		State Party to Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989? Please list any relevant reservations.	Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989	Yes, with reservations: · Article 26: The Kingdom of the Netherlands accepts the provisions of Article 26 of the Convention with the reservation that these provisions shall not imply an independent entitlement of children to social security, including social insurance; · Article 37: The Kingdom of the Netherlands accepts the provisions of Article 37(c) of the Convention with the reservation that these provisions shall not prevent the application of adult penal law to children of sixteen years and older, provided that certain criteria by law have been met; · Article 40: The Kingdom of the Netherlands accepts the provisions of Article 40 of the Convention with the reservation that cases involving minor offences may be tried without the presence of legal assistance and that with respect to such offences the position remains that no provision is made in all cases for a review of the facts or of any measures imposed as a consequence.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/003908_b
IOB.3.f		State Party to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966? Please list any relevant reservations.	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	Yes, with reservations: · Article 10: The Kingdom of the Netherlands subscribes to the principle set out in paragraph 1 of this article, but it takes the view that ideas about the treatment of prisoners are so liable to change that it does not wish to be bound by the obligations set out in paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 (second sentence) of this article. · Article 12(1): The Kingdom of the Netherlands regards the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles as separate territories of a State for the purpose of this provision; · Article 12(2) & (4): The Kingdom of the Netherlands regards the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles as separate countries for the purpose of these provisions; · Article 14(3)(d): The Kingdom of the Netherlands reserves the statutory option of removing a person charged with a criminal offence from the court room in the interests of the proper conduct of the proceedings; · Article 14(5): The kingdom of the Netherlands reserves the statutory power of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands to have sole jurisdiction to try certain categories of persons charged with serious offences committed in the discharge of a public office; · Article 14(7): The Kingdom of the Netherlands accepts this provision only insofar as no obligations arise from it further to those set out in Article 68 of the Criminal Code of the Netherlands and Article 70 of the Criminal Code of the Netherlands Antilles as they now apply; · Article 19(2): The Kingdom of the Netherlands accepts the provision with the proviso that it shall not prevent the Kingdom	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/003721_b

				<p>from requiring the licensing or broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Article 20(1): The Kingdom of the Netherlands does not accept the obligation set out in this provision in the case of the Netherlands. [The Kingdom of the Netherlands] clarify that although the reservations [...] are partly of an interpretational nature, [it] has preferred reservations to interpretational declarations in all cases, since if the latter form were used doubt might arise concerning whether the text of the Covenant allows for the interpretation put upon it. By using the reservation form the Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to ensure in all cases that the relevant obligations arising out of the Covenant will not apply to the Kingdom, or will apply only in the way indicated. · The Kingdom of the Netherlands declares under Article 41 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that it recognises the competence of the Human Rights Committee referred to in Article 28 of the Covenant to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State Party claims that another State Party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Covenant. 	
IOB.3.g		State Party to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966? Please list any relevant reservations.	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966	Yes. The reservation to Art. 8(1)(NL) was withdrawn in 2017.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/003723_b
IOB.3.h		State Party to Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979? Please list any relevant reservations.	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979 CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness	Yes, with the following declaration: · During the preparatory stages of the present Convention and in the course of debates on it in the General Assembly the position of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands was that it was not desirable to introduce political considerations such as those contained in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the preamble in a legal instrument of this nature. Moreover, the considerations are not directly related to the achievement of total equality between men and women. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers that it must recall its objections to the said paragraphs in the preamble at this occasion.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/000837_b
IOB.3.i		State Party to Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984? Please list any relevant reservations.	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984	Yes, with the following declarations: · Article 1(1): It is the understanding of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that the term “lawful sanctions” in Article 1(1), must be understood as referring to those sanctions which are lawful not only under national law but also under international law; · Article 21: The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands hereby declares that it recognises the competence of the Committee against Torture under the conditions laid down in Article 21, to receive and consider communications to the effect that another State Party claims that the Kingdom is not fulfilling its obligations under this Convention; · Article 22: The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands hereby declares that it recognises the competence of the Committee against Torture, under the conditions laid down in Article 22, to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by the Kingdom of the provisions of the Convention.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/000176_b

IOB.3.j		State Party to International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1966? Please list any relevant reservations.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965	Yes, with the following declaration: · Article 14(1): In accordance with Article 14(1), of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination concluded at New York on 7 March 1966, the Kingdom of the Netherlands recognises, for the European part of the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the Caribbean part of the Netherlands (the islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba), the competence of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within its jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation, by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, of any of the rights set forth in the above-mentioned Convention.	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/003657_b
IOB.3.k		State Party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families 1990? Please list any relevant reservations.	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, 1990	No.	OCHR, status of ratification: http://indicators.ohchr.org/
IOB.3.l		State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006? Please list any relevant reservations.	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006	Yes, with the following reservation and declarations: - Article 10: The Kingdom of the Netherlands acknowledges that unborn human life is worthy of protection. The Kingdom of the Netherlands interprets the scope of Article 10, in line with the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights on this issue, to the effect that such protection - and thereby the term 'human being' - is a matter of national legislation. - Article 12: The Kingdom of the Netherlands recognizes that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life. Furthermore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands declares its understanding that the Convention allows for supported and substitute decision-making arrangements in appropriate circumstances and in accordance with the law. The Kingdom of the Netherlands interprets Article 12 as restricting substitute decision-making arrangements to cases where such measures are necessary, as a last resort and subject to safeguards. - Article 14: The Kingdom of the Netherlands recognizes that all persons with disabilities enjoy the right to liberty and security of person, and a right to respect for physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others. Furthermore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands declares its understanding that the Convention allows for compulsory care or treatment of persons, including measures to treat mental illnesses, when circumstances render treatment of this kind necessary as a last resort, and the treatment is subject to legal safeguards. - Article 15: The Kingdom of the Netherlands declares that it will interpret the term 'consent' in article 15 in conformity with international instruments and national legislation which is in line with these instruments. This means that, as far as biomedical research is concerned, the term 'consent' applies to two different situations: 1. Consent given by a person who is able to consent, and 2. In the case of persons who are not able to give their consent, permission given by their representative or an authority or body provided for by law. The Kingdom of the Netherlands declares that it will interpret the term 'consent' in article 15 in conformity with international instruments and national legislation which is in line with these instruments. This means that, as far as biomedical research is concerned, the term 'consent' applies to two different situations: 1. Consent given by a person who is able to consent, and	Treaty Database: https://verdragenbank.overheid.nl/en/Treaty/Details/011595_b

				<p>2. In the case of persons who are not able to give their consent, permission given by their representative or an authority or body provided for by law.</p> <p>-Article 23: With regard to Article 23 paragraph 1(b), the Kingdom of the Netherlands declares that the best interests of the child shall be paramount.</p> <p>- Article 25: The Kingdom of the Netherlands interprets article 25 (a) to concern access to health care and the affordability of health care, and confirms that discrimination in such matters is not allowed. The Kingdom of the Netherlands considers it also important that health care professionals may determine which health care is provided based on medical grounds and its expected (in)effectiveness.</p> <p>The individual autonomy of the person is an important principle laid down in Article 3 (a) of the Convention. The Kingdom of the Netherlands understands Article 25 (f) in the light of this autonomy. This provision is interpreted to mean that good care involves respecting a person's wishes with regard to medical treatment, food and fluids, and that a decision to withhold any of these can also be based on medical grounds.</p> <p>- Article 29: The Kingdom of the Netherlands is fully committed to ensure the effective and full exercise by persons with disabilities of their right and opportunity to vote by secret ballot. It recognizes the importance of persons with disabilities to have, where necessary, at their request, assistance in voting. To safeguard voting by secret ballot without intimidation, as provided for in article 29 (a) (ii), and to ensure the principle of one vote per person, the Kingdom of the Netherlands declares that it will interpret the term 'assistance' in article 29 (a) (iii) as assistance only to be effected outside the voting booth, except with regard to assistance required due to a physical disability, in which case assistance may also be permitted inside the voting booth.</p>	
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Stateless Population Data

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
POP.1.a	Availability and sources	Does the State have a standardised ‘stateless’ category in its data collection systems (e.g. census)? Please list available figures for the total stateless population on the territory and describe how data is disaggregated (e.g. by sex, age, residence).	<p>CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 (2014): States parties should gather, analyse and make available sex-disaggregated statistical data and trends.</p> <p>Council of the European Union, Conclusions on Statelessness (2015): Recognise the importance of exchanging good practices among Member States concerning the collection of reliable data on stateless persons as well as the procedures for determining statelessness.</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations.</p> <p>ISI, The World’s Stateless (2014): States should strengthen measures to count stateless persons on their territory.</p> <p>International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) (endorsed by UN Statistical Commission in 2023): States should use standardised definition of statelessness and consistent indicators for collecting statelessness data.</p>	<p>Official data on statelessness is not reported on consistently and inclusively. In the national data collection system (StatLine), a division is made between the category ‘stateless’ and ‘nationality unknown’. However, not all the data is updated every year. In some data tables ‘stateless’ and ‘unknown nationality’ form one category, and in some data tables (up to 2014) ‘stateless’ is included as a separate category. The table on the number of nationalities people possess on the territory shows 1,978 stateless people in 2014. In 2019, the number of ‘stateless / unknown nationality’ reported by the Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS) (Central Statistics Bureau) was 55,621, which according to other sources would include 12,869 ‘stateless’ persons and 42,752 persons of ‘unknown nationality’.</p> <p>The number of people recorded by the Central Statistics Bureau as ‘stateless / unknown nationality’ on the territory was 36,267 on 1 January 2021, 31,517 on 1 January 2022 and 27,637 on 1 January 2023. The steep reduction in numbers may be due several reasons, including the waiving of the requirement to have a source document when applying for naturalisation for people who received a residence permit under the general pardon regulation from 2007 (a ‘RANOV permit’). The Central Statistics Bureau declined requests to provide disaggregated data on the number of stateless people in the Netherlands, citing capacity issues.</p> <p>There were 8,867 stateless persons or persons with unknown nationality who acquired Dutch nationality in 2020 and 4,916 in 2021. At this moment, the Central Statistics Bureau has not yet updated its data on the acquisition of Dutch nationality to reflect the numbers for the year 2022. There is no age disaggregated data available.</p> <p>According to the English version of the Dutch Government website, the Basisregistratie Personen (BRP, Civil Registry) shows that there are 12,000 stateless persons and over 40,000 individuals with unknown nationality registered. On the Dutch-language webpage, it is stated that there are 6,000 stateless persons and 30,000 individuals with an unknown nationality registered in the civil registry. The contrasting figures presented on the English and Dutch-language webpages, underlining the lack of accurate data reporting in the Netherlands, indicate that the number of stateless persons and individuals with unknown nationality remains uncertain.</p>	<p>StatLine (CBS) data by sex, age and nationality: https://opendata.cbs.nl/#/CBS/nl/dataset/03743/table?ts=1638285490436</p> <p>StatLine (CBS) data on number of nationalities people possess on the territory (stateless), 1995-2014: http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?DM=SLNL&PA=70999NED&D1=8&D2=a&HDR=T&STB=G1&CHARTTYPE=0&VW=T</p> <p>StatLine (CBS) data on acquisition of Dutch nationality: https://opendata.cbs.nl/#/CBS/nl/dataset/37550ned/table?ts=1634048719134</p> <p>Dutch Government Website, Statelessness: https://www.government.nl/topics/dutch-citizenship/statelessness (in English) and https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/nederlandse-nationaliteit/staatloosheid (NL)</p> <p>Statline (CBS), Population; gender, age, nationality and region, January 1, available at: https://opendata.cbs.nl/#/CBS/nl/dataset/84727NED/table?ts=1638285278899</p> <p>ASKV</p>
POP.1.b		Do public authorities define data categories that may overlap (e.g. unknown nationality) or where stateless people might be more highly represented (e.g. Palestinian)? Please explain and provide any available figures.	As above	<p>StatLine provides data on stateless persons or persons with unknown nationality on a yearly basis as of 1 January. The number of people recorded by the Central Statistics Bureau as ‘stateless / unknown nationality’ on the territory was 36,267 on 1 January 2021, 31,517 on 1 January 2022 and 27,637 on 1 January 2023.</p> <p>In 2022, 39 first-applications were made by stateless persons, 1,113 by people recorded with an ‘unknown nationality’ and 32 by people recorded as ‘Palestinian Occupied Territory’, out of a total of 35,535 first asylum applications. 370 stateless and 140</p>	<p>StatLine data by sex, age and nationality: http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?DM=SLNL&PA=03743&D1=0&D2=0&D3=l&D4=a&HDR=T,G1,G3&STB=G2&VW=T</p> <p>StatLine data by population, gender, age and nationality on 1 January: https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/nl/dataset/03743/table?fromstatweb</p>

				'unknown' persons arrived to the Netherlands following family reunification procedures in 2022, out of a total of 10,925 persons.	IND Asylum Trends, December 2022: https://ind.nl/en/documents/01-2023/at-december-2022-main-report.pdf p. 7, 10
POP.1.c		What is UNHCR's estimate for the stateless/at risk of statelessness population and what is the source for this estimate?	As above	<p>UNHCR mentions as part of the 2019 petition to end statelessness in the Netherlands (by UNHCR, ISI and ASKV), that the exact number of stateless persons in the Netherlands is unknown, but that it is known that there are approximately 13,000 people officially registered as 'stateless' and 43,000 officially registered as 'nationality unknown' (derived by UNHCR from official statistics). On top of that there is an unknown number of stateless persons without a residence permit in the Netherlands.</p> <p>The 2022 UNHCR Global Trends Report (Table 5 Annex 'Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate, 2022') provides the following numbers for the Netherlands at the end of 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number of persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate: 1,951 - Total number of stateless people including forcibly displaced Stateless: 4,652 	<p>UNHCR, petition to end statelessness in NL: https://www.unhcr.org/nl/help-einde-maken-aan-staatloosheid-nederland/</p> <p>UNHCR 2022 Global Trends Report, Table 5 Annex 'Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate, 2022', available at: https://www.unhcr.org/statistics/2022GTannextableSTA.xlsx</p>
POP.1.d		Have there been any surveys or mapping studies to estimate the stateless population in the country?	As above	Yes.	<p>UNCHR, 2011, Mapping statelessness in the Netherlands: http://www.refworld.org/docid/4eef65da2.html (E) and http://www.aoo.nl/downloads/2014-09-12-UN.pdf (NL)</p> <p>Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ), 2013, Geen land te bekenen een advies over de verdragsrechtelijke bescherming van staatlozen in nederland, https://acvz.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/04-12-2013_GeenLandTeBekennen.pdf (NL) - summary in English pp.108-111)</p> <p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) Asiel trends (asylum trends – latest from 2016): https://ind.nl/over-ind/Cijfers-publicaties/Paginas/Asieltrends.aspx (NL)</p> <p>Vluchtelingenwerk (Dutch Refugee Council) report, 2016: https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/sites/public/u895/Vluchtelingengetallen2016.pdf</p> <p>IND Asylum trends, August 2018: https://ind.nl/en/Documents/AT_august_2018_hoofdrapport.pdf, p. 10</p> <p>Dutch Refugee Council, 'Refugees in numbers', 2018: https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/sites/default/files/u640/20180719_vluchtelingen_in_getallen_%202018_allerdefinitiefste.pdf (NL)</p> <p>Dutch Refugee Council, 'Refugees in numbers', 2019: https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/sites/default/files/Vluchtelingenwerk/Cijfers/20190722_vwn_vluchtelingen-in-getallen.pdf</p> <p>Dutch Refugee Council, 'Refugees in numbers', 2020: https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/sites/default/files/u36436/vluchtelingen_in_getallen_2020_v11.pdf</p>

					<p>Dutch Refugee Council, 'Refugees in numbers', 2022: https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/sites/default/files/2022-08/ViGdef_0.pdf</p> <p>IND Asylum Trends, December 2021: https://ind.nl/en/documents/05-2022/atdecember2021hoofdrapport.pdf 7, 10</p>
POP.1.e		Are there any other sources of estimates for the stateless population not covered by the above? Please list sources and figures.	As above	The ACVZ refers in their report to the number of stateless people registered in the Dutch Population Register (BRP). In 2012 this number was 2,005, and 88,313 people had 'unknown nationality'. The 2016 explanatory memorandum for the draft legislation for a statelessness determination procedure refers to 2,000 stateless people noted in the ACVZ report. On top of that it states that the number of registered stateless people has increased due to the arrival of around 3,000 stateless Syrian Palestinians.	<p>Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ), 2013, Geen land te bekennen een advies over de verdragsrechtelijke bescherming van staatlozen in nederland, p.31: https://www.adviescommissievoorvreemdelingenzaken.nl/publicaties/publicaties/2013/12/4/geen-land-te-bekennen (NL)</p> <p>Overheid.nl (Dutch Government web portal), Draft Explanatory: Explanatory Memorandum statelessness determination procedure, p. 3 https://www.internetconsultatie.nl/staatloosheid</p>
POP.1.f		Are there issues with the reliability of data or indications that the stateless population may be over/under reported? If yes, please describe.	As above	<p>Yes, firstly because the statelessness determination procedure has only recently been implemented (1 October 2023). As of this moment, it is not known how many unregistered stateless people are currently residing in the country. Secondly, the use of the category 'unknown nationality' in official data is causing significant uncertainty as to the number of stateless persons with undetermined statelessness status.</p> <p>There is no reliable data available on the number of people who are currently residing without residence papers, including the number of stateless people.</p> <p>Based on the above, it is likely that the stateless population is underreported in the Netherlands.</p>	<p>Overheid.nl (Dutch Government web portal), Draft Explanatory: Explanatory Memorandum statelessness determination procedure, p. 3 https://www.internetconsultatie.nl/staatloosheid</p>
POP.1.g		Please provide any available figures for stateless refugees and/or asylum-seekers and clarify if the State also counts these groups in figures for the stateless population (i.e. to avoid under/over-reporting).	<p>As above.</p> <p>EASO/EUAA, Practical guide on registration (2021): States should collect information from applicants for international protection about their nationality(ies) and potential lack of nationality. When registering families, it is important to collect this data for each family member.</p>	<p>The Government only counts registered stateless persons – some of these people could be registered, but not necessarily all, so there is likely to be some overlap.</p> <p>See POP.1.b for the latest available figures for stateless asylum-seekers.</p> <p>The Central Bureau of Statistics also specifies the number of stateless persons that obtained a residence permit for the first time, categorised by year and type of permit. For example, in 2022, 565 stateless persons obtained an asylum permit (in comparison, the total number of asylum permits obtained by stateless persons in 2015 was 4,390), and 195 stateless persons obtained a residence permit on other grounds in 2022. An additional 470 persons registered with an unknown nationality have obtained an asylum permit, and 590 persons obtained a residence permit on non-asylum grounds.</p>	<p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), Asylum Trends: Monthly Report on Asylum Applications in The Netherlands, Dec. 2016: https://ind.nl/en/Documents/AT_December_2016.pdf</p> <p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND), Asylum trends: Monthly Report on Asylum Applications in The Netherlands, Dec. 2017, p. 4: https://ind.nl/en/Documents/AT_December_2017.pdf</p> <p>Source: IND Asylum Trends, December 2019: https://ind.nl/Documents/AT_2019.pdf , p. 7 and 10</p> <p>CBS StatLine data; Asylum requests and following relatives; nationality, gender and age: https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/nl/dataset/83102NED/table?ts=1606139040748</p> <p>CBS StatLine data; Residence permits for a definite period; residence ground and nationality: https://opendata.cbs.nl/statline/#/CBS/nl/dataset/82027NED/table?ts=1606139232856</p>

POP.2.a	Stateless in detention data	Does the State record and publish figures on stateless people held in immigration detention? If yes, please provide.	<p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations.</p> <p>CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 (2014): State parties should gather, analyse and make available sex-disaggregated statistical data and trends.</p> <p>ISI, The World's Stateless (2014): States should strengthen measures to count stateless persons on their territory.</p> <p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): States must identify stateless persons within their territory or subject to their jurisdiction as a first step towards ensuring the protection of their human rights.</p> <p>Council of the European Union, Conclusions on Statelessness (2015): Recognise the importance of exchanging good practices among Member States concerning the collection of reliable data on stateless persons as well as the procedures for determining statelessness.</p>	<p>The presence of stateless persons in administrative detention must be inferred from general statistics because there is no determination procedure and no specific data on stateless persons in detention.</p> <p>The overall use of detention has fluctuated in recent years.</p> <p>In 2020, 2,357 persons entered immigration detention with an average stay of 50 days. Data from the Ministry of Security and Justice shows that 20 persons with 'unknown nationality' entered immigration detention in 2020 (rounded to tens). No further data is available on stateless persons held in immigration detention.</p> <p>In 2021, 2,929 persons entered immigration detention with an average stay of 34 days. Data from the Ministry of Security and Justice shows that 30 persons with 'unknown nationality' and 10 persons with a 'Palestinian' nationality entered immigration detention in 2021 (rounded to tens). No further data is available on stateless persons held in immigration detention.</p> <p>In 2022, 2,732 persons entered immigration detention with an average stay of 30 days. The most common nationalities of those detained in 2022 were Morocco (16,5%), Algeria (12,4%) and Poland (7,7%). No further data is available on stateless people or persons with an unknown nationality held in immigration detention for 2022.</p> <p>Data from the Ministry of Security and Justice shows that 50 persons with 'unknown nationality' were in immigration detention in 2023 (rounded to tens). No further data is available on stateless persons held in immigration detention.</p>	<p>(A) ENS, 2015, Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, p. 14: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p> <p>Amnesty International, Het recht op vrijheid vreemdelingendetentie: het ultimatum remedium-beginsel, Februari 2018: https://www.amnesty.nl/content/uploads/2018/02/AMN_18_08_Rapport-het-recht-op-vrijheid_DEF_web.pdf?x73404 (NL)</p> <p>The Custodial Institutions Agency, immigration detention 2020, July 2021: https://www.dji.nl/feiten-en-cijfers/documenten/publicaties/2020/07/27/infographic-vreemdelingenbewaring-2021</p> <p>The Custodial Institutions Agency, immigration detention 2022, June 2023: https://www.dji.nl/over-dji/documenten/publicaties/2023/06/06/infographic-vreemdelingenbewaring-2022</p> <p>Ministry of Justice & Security, Migratieketen: Vertrek - Nationale Politie Vreemdelingenbewaring Instroom 2020, https://data.overheid.nl/dataset/immigratie-nationale-politie-vreemdelingenbewaring-instroom#panel-resources</p> <p>Ministry of Justice & Security, Migratieketen: Vertrek - Nationale Politie Vreemdelingenbewaring Instroom 2021, https://data.overheid.nl/sites/default/files/dataset/1f99177d-3201-4efd-bc29-9132f85afc8a/resources/Vertrek%20-%20NP%20vreemdelingenbewaring%20instroom%202021.csv</p> <p>Ministry of Security & Justice, Migratieketen: Vertrek - Nationale Politie Vreemdelingenbewaring Instroom 2023, https://data.overheid.nl/dataset/immigratie-nationale-politie-vreemdelingenbewaring-instroom#panel-resources</p>
POP.2.b		Does the State record and publish figures on people released from immigration detention due to un-removability? If yes, please provide.	As above	<p>There is no data available on individuals released from immigration detention due to un-removability.</p> <p>In terms of more general data, in 2022, 2,732 persons entered immigration detention and 2,652 persons were released.</p> <p>A 2020 report by the National Ombudsperson mentions that in practice a (unspecified) number of immigrants are re-detained on a regular basis due to not cooperating or due to the country of origin refusing return of the individual.</p> <p>Additional data is published by the Ministry of Security & Justice on the numbers of persons that have left the Netherlands, either compulsory or voluntarily.</p>	<p>The Custodial Institutions Agency, August 2018, In numbers: 2013-2017, pp.49-55: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2018/08/31/dji-in-getal-2013-2017 (NL)</p> <p>ENS, 2015, Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, p. 20: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p> <p>The Custodial Institutions Agency, April 2019: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/brochures/2019/04/30/dji-infosheet-vreemdelingenbewaring</p> <p>The Custodial Institutions Agency, immigration detention, July 2020: https://www.dji.nl/documenten/publicaties/2020/07/01/infosheet-vreemdelingenbewaring-juli-2020</p>

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Statelessness Determination and Status

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
SDS.1.a	Definition of a stateless person	Is there a definition of a stateless person in national law? Do the definition and exclusion provisions align with the 1954 Convention? Please provide details.	1954 Convention : Articles 1(1) & 1(2).	The definition of a stateless person in Dutch law is slightly different from Art. 1(1) of the 1954 Convention: “ <i>een persoon die door geen enkele staat, krachtens diens wetgeving, als onderdaan wordt beschouwd</i> ” or “a person that is not by any State, under its legislation, considered to be a national”. The original text of the Convention “under the operation of its law” is translated in the Netherlands as “ <i>krachtens diens wetgeving</i> ” or “under its legislation”, which is narrower than the Convention definition.	Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap (Dutch nationality law), Article 1: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2018-08-01 (NL) Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ), 2013, Geen land te bekennen een advies over de verdragsrechtelijke bescherming van staatlozen in Nederland, p.43: https://acvz.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/04-12-2013_GeenLandTeBekennen.pdf (NL)
SDS.2.a	Training	Is there training to inform different public authorities about statelessness? If yes, please provide details (e.g. who provides training to whom/how often?)	UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion No. 106 (LVII) (2006) : Requests UNHCR to actively disseminate information and, where appropriate, train government counterparts on appropriate mechanisms for identifying, recording, and granting a status to stateless persons.	There are no courses specifically targeted at government bodies and public officials. We see a need for more targeted and recurring trainings particularly targeted at civil servants. General trainings are available, that are sometimes also attended by state officials. For example, Katja Swider has provided a number of trainings at the University of Amsterdam, in addition to a number of symposia that have been attended by state officials (municipality employees, immigration officers, etc.). The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion has organised ad hoc trainings on statelessness, targeted at a wider audience but among which civil servants were present. In 2023, UNHCR has conducted a number of trainings targeted at government bodies, including the Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the Returns and Repatriation Service.	Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance, Statelessness in the Netherlands and the GBA: a practitioners workshop, 28 Nov 2012: http://acelg.uva.nl/content/events/workshops/2012/11/statelessness-in-the-netherlands-and-the-gba.html?origin=U%2BcGA%2BeSWGukSRCZF4gpw Cursus Staatloosheid in bestuurs-, nationaliteits- en vreemdelingenrecht, Eggen Instituut, Amsterdam, 12 March 2015: http://advocatenblad.nl/2015/01/08/de-agenda-voor-2015/ (NL) Training delivered by ENS and Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion in Groningen and Tilburg, November 2016: http://www.stichtinglos.nl/agenda/trainingen-over-staatloosheid-nl-groningen-16nov-en-tilburg-25nov
SDS.2.b		Is there training for judges and lawyers on statelessness? If yes, please provide details (e.g. provider, frequency).	UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020) : Officials who may be in contact with stateless persons need to be trained to identify potential applicants for statelessness status and refer them to appropriate channels. UNHCR, Geneva Conclusions (2010) : It is recommended that States provide specialised training on nationality laws and practices, international standards and statelessness to officials responsible for making statelessness determinations.	NGOs, including ASKV, the Institute on Statelessness & Inclusion and ENS have organised workshops which were attended by lawyers in the years leading up to the legislative reforms. In 2023, ASKV and UNHCR have organised trainings for lawyers, judges and NGOs on the legislative changes on statelessness in the Netherlands.	Training delivered by ENS and Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion in Groningen and Tilburg, November 2016: http://www.stichtinglos.nl/agenda/trainingen-over-staatloosheid-nl-groningen-16nov-en-tilburg-25nov NJCM (Dutch Lawyers Committee for Human Rights) Seminar, June 2014: http://www.stichtinglos.nl/agenda/njcm-seminar-staatloosheid-nederland-11-juni-17-19u Humanity House Seminar, Nationality Unknown, December 2015: https://www.humanityhouse.org/agenda/nationaliteit-onbekend/ UNCHR, 2011, Mapping statelessness in the Netherlands, p.62: http://www.refworld.org/docid/4eef65da2.html (E) and http://www.aoo.nl/downloads/2014-09-12-UN.pdf (NL) Nederlandse orde Van Advocaten (Dutch Bar Association), Actualities in Nationality Law, 14 November 2017: https://cursusaanbod.advocatenorde.nl/33041/actualiteiten-nationaliteitsrecht/ (NL) Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion: www.institutesi.org Workshop on statelessness, 4 June 2019, Utrecht: https://www.askv.nl/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Staatloosheid-workshop-flyer-4-juni-2019.pdf

<p>SDS.3.a</p>	<p>Existence of a dedicated SDP</p>	<p>Which of the following best describes the situation in your country? Choose only one and then proceed to question indicated.</p> <p>1. There is a dedicated statelessness determination procedure (SDP) established in law, administrative guidance, or judicial procedure, leading to a dedicated statelessness status (answer Question SDS.3.b. and proceed to Question 4a).</p> <p>2. There is no dedicated SDP leading to a dedicated statelessness status, but there are other procedures in which statelessness can be identified (e.g. partial SDPs with no status/rights attached, residence permit or naturalisation applications, refugee status determination, ad hoc procedures, etc.), or other routes through which stateless people could regularise their stay and/or access their rights (answer Question SDS.3.b. and proceed to Question 10a).</p> <p>3. There is a dedicated statelessness status but no formal procedure for determining this (answer Question SDS.3.b. and proceed to Question 15a).</p>	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): It is implicit in the 1954 Convention that States must identify stateless persons to provide them appropriate treatment to comply with their Convention commitments.</p> <p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): Establishing a statelessness determination procedure is the most efficient means for States Parties to identify beneficiaries of the Convention.</p>	<p>#2.</p> <p>As of 1 October 2023, the Netherlands has a dedicated procedure to determine statelessness established in law, although the procedure does not lead to a dedicated statelessness status. There are various routes to have statelessness determined, both administrative and through a judicial procedure.</p>	<p>Statelessness page on website of the Government of the Netherlands: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/nederlandse-nationaliteit/inhoud/staatloosheid (NL)</p>
<p>SDS.3.b</p>	<p>Temporary protection for people fleeing war</p>	<p>Does the State guarantee access to the territory to everyone fleeing Ukraine, regardless of nationality, documentation, or residence status? Does the State offer a temporary form of protection to stateless people and people at risk of statelessness from Ukraine (through the EU Temporary Protection Directive or another mechanism)? Is temporary protection accessible to all stateless persons who have fled Ukraine, regardless of their documentation status? If the State grants temporary protection more broadly than required by the EU TPD, please state so. Please describe any other barriers for stateless people or people at risk of statelessness in accessing the territory or receiving temporary protection, asylum, or other protection.</p>	<p>EU Temporary Protection Directive (2001) EU Council Implementing Decision (2022) establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine & European Commission, Operational guidelines ENS, Briefings on access to protection for stateless people fleeing Ukraine: Everyone fleeing the war in Ukraine should be guaranteed access to the territory. European countries must extend temporary forms of protection to all stateless people and those with undetermined nationality who cannot meet current eligibility requirements, due to their statelessness or documentation status. Lack of documentation should not prevent access to international protection or other forms of protection.</p>	<p>Everyone fleeing the war in Ukraine can enter the Netherlands. The registration procedure depends on whether the person has identification documents. Undocumented people can register but their identity must be established. In case of doubt, the municipality will contact the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst, IND) and additional research may be required. If their identity cannot be established, there is no registration or separate procedure for them.</p> <p>The Netherlands partially offers temporary protection to stateless persons. The Netherlands provides temporary protection to stateless persons who, on 23 February 2022, had international protection or another form of temporary national protection in Ukraine, or who had a valid residence permit in Ukraine (regardless of the type of residence permit). Also included are family members of people who are included under temporary protection. People do not need to have had a permanent residence permit in Ukraine, those who held a temporary residence permit are entitled to protection if they have registered at a Dutch town hall before 19 July 2022.</p> <p>Non-Ukrainians with a temporary Ukrainian residence permit, for example to work or study, are no longer covered by the directive after 4 March 2024. This means that they are not allowed to stay in the Netherlands under the directive. Stateless persons with (temporary) international protection status in Ukraine are still covered by the directive.</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice and Safety, 2022, Regeling opvang ontheemden Oekraïne: https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stcrt-2022-9469.html</p> <p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Temporary Protection Directive Ukraine: https://ind.nl/en/ukraine/temporary-protection-directive-ukraine</p>

				There are no (publicly) available reports on barriers for stateless people from Ukraine in accessing protection, and NGOs including ASKV have seen very limited cases of stateless persons from Ukraine.	
SDS.10.a	Procedures in which statelessness can be identified and other routes to regularisation (Group 2)	If there is no dedicated SDP leading to a statelessness status , are there any procedures in which statelessness can be identified (e.g. partial SDPs with no status/rights attached, residence permit or naturalisation applications, refugee status determination, ad hoc procedures, etc.)?	ENS (2013) : For SDPs to be effective, the determination must be a specific objective of the mechanism in question, though not necessarily the only one. ECtHR, Hoti v. Croatia (2018) : [the State has a] positive obligation to provide an effective and accessible procedure or a combination of procedures enabling the applicant to have the issues of [their] further stay and status determined.	As of 1 October 2023, the Netherlands has a dedicated procedure to determine statelessness. The legislature has placed the process of determining statelessness within the realm of civil law rather than migration law. Determining statelessness is viewed as a matter of civil status, devoid of any implications for residency rights. The primary responsibility for this determination lies with judges in the civil chamber of the Court of the Hague. Municipalities and government bodies such as the Immigration and Naturalisation Service also have the authority to ascertain statelessness within the framework of civil registry legislation. However, this option is limited to cases of "obvious statelessness," such as instances where statelessness has already been confirmed through a procedure abroad. Subsidiary legislation outlines specific criteria for identifying cases of "obvious" or "evident statelessness," curtailing municipalities' discretion in registering stateless individuals. While the procedure aligns with many UNHCR guidelines regarding types of evidence and standards of proof, a common criticism revolves around the absence of residency rights conferred by the procedure. This criticism extends not only to the period of undergoing the procedure but also to the lack of rights upon official recognition as stateless. The Netherlands' Council of State has cautioned against implementing a statelessness status determination procedure that does not grant residency rights.	Statelessness page on website of the Government of the Netherlands: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/nederlandse-nationaliteit/inhoud/staatloosheid (NL) Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ), 2013, Geen land te bekennen: een advies over de verdragsrechtelijke bescherming van staatlozen in nederland, p.50: https://acvz.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/04-12-2013_GeenLandTeBekennen.pdf (NL) Katja Swider, 2014, Statelessness Determination in the Netherlands, Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance, Working Paper Series 2014 - 04, pp. 21-23: https://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/attachments/resources/Statelessness%20Determination%20in%20the%20Netherlands%20Katja%20Swider.pdf Advisory Division of the Council of State, advice on the proposed SDP law, December 2017 (published December 2020) https://www.raadvanstate.nl/adviezen/@116936/w03-17-0317-ii
SDS.10.b		Are there any other routes through which stateless people could regularise their stay and/or access their rights without their statelessness being identified or determined?	1954 Convention UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014) : It is implicit in the 1954 Convention that States must identify stateless persons to provide them appropriate treatment to comply with their Convention commitments.	Stateless persons can access the available procedures for a residence permit based on other applicable grounds (asylum, family life, medical grounds, no-fault procedure, etc.). However, if their statelessness is not identified or determined this can cause difficulties in the applicable procedure as there may be doubts about their identity and (absence of a) nationality which may undermine the outcome of the procedure to regularise their stay. There is no dedicated procedure in place for stateless persons to regularise their stay based solely on their statelessness.	
SDS.11.a	Access to procedures (Group 2)	Please provide details on how statelessness may be identified in other procedures, which authority is competent to examine and/or identify statelessness and evaluate appropriateness to the national context.	UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014) : States may choose between a centralised procedure or one that is conducted by local authorities. Centralised procedures are preferable as they are more likely to develop the necessary expertise. UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020) : It is important that examiners develop expertise while ensuring that the procedures are accessible. Efficient referral mechanisms should be established, while officials who may be in contact with stateless persons need to be trained to identify potential applicants for statelessness status and refer them to appropriate channels.	The 'Law on the Determination Procedure for Statelessness' (hereinafter: the Law) contains a procedure for having statelessness determined by a court. Pursuant to Article 5 of the Law, obvious statelessness can also be established outside the judicial determination procedure. The 'Decision on Obvious Statelessness' (hereinafter: the decision) is an elaboration of this and specifies a limited number of situations in which a government body (including, among others, municipalities and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service) may assume that obvious statelessness exists. The current decision identifies five situations in which there may be obvious statelessness: a) possesses a document indicating the determination of statelessness issued by a country designated by ministerial regulation;	Wet Basisregistratie personen (BRP) (Law on the Population Register) of 2013: http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0033715/2015-09-01 (NL) ASKV & ENS, submission under the consultation process of a legislative proposal for an SDP (English), 27 November 2016: https://www.internetconsultatie.nl/staatloosheid/reactie/c31db4ca-9433-400c-9871-6fdd753046ca Tweede Kamer 'Wet vaststellingsprocedure staatloosheid', 21 December 2020: https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/wetsvoorstellen/detail?cfg=wetsvoorstel&qry=wetsvoorstel%3A35687 Katja Swider, 2014, Statelessness Determination in the Netherlands, Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance, Working Paper Series 2014 - 04, pp. 21-23:

				<p>b) is a child born in the Netherlands to parents who are stateless and possesses a birth certificate as defined in Article 2.3 of the Personal Records Database Act;</p> <p>c) is a child born in the Netherlands whose father is stateless and whose mother exclusively holds the nationality of a country designated by ministerial regulation, and possesses a birth certificate as defined in Article 2.3 of the Personal Records Database Act;</p> <p>d) is a child born in the Netherlands who does not have a father as defined in Article 199 of Book 1 of the Civil Code and whose mother is stateless or exclusively holds the nationality of a country designated by ministerial regulation, and possesses a birth certificate as defined in Article 2.3 of the Personal Records Database Act;</p> <p>e) solely possesses the nationality of a state not recognised by the Netherlands.</p> <p>With these five situations, a limited and highly restrictive application of non-judicial determination of statelessness is chosen. Firstly, it is noted that only in some cases can 'a child born in the Netherlands' be considered as obviously stateless. These cases, as described in situations b), c), and d) in the decision, should also apply to children born outside the Netherlands who possess a foreign birth certificate.</p> <p>Situation e), in practice, applies mainly to Palestinians who possess documents from the document groups currently required in determining statelessness among Palestinians (see Werkinstructie IND). However, as of date there is insufficient information how this is applied in practice.</p> <p>Furthermore, municipalities, given their role over the past decades in registering nationality for the Personal Records Database (BRP), have also developed expertise in determining statelessness. The new legislation does not allow for flexibility for other situations of obvious statelessness in the decision, which would ensure that authorities can assess cases that fall outside of the five situations listed in law. This can, potentially leading to unforeseen and unreasonably disadvantageous consequences for the individual, such as a lengthy and costly procedure in court.</p> <p>An asylum procedure and a judicial statelessness determination may not be assessed in parallel. A statelessness determination request will not be admissible where an asylum procedure is ongoing, and where an asylum request is lodged while a statelessness determination is ongoing, the District Court of The Hague will defer the determination of statelessness.</p>	<p>https://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/attachments/resources/Statelessness%20Determination%20in%20the%20Netherlands%20Katja%20Swider.pdf</p> <p>Joint statement ASKV & ENS and others on the proposed Decision on Obvious Statelessness, April 2022, https://www.askv.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Gezamenlijke-reactie-consultatie-evidente-staatloosheid-ASKV-ISI-ENS-anderen.pdf</p> <p>Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Decision on Obvious Statelessness, October 2023, https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0048471/2023-10-01</p> <p>Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Regulation concerning obvious statelessness and the identification document for stateless persons, October 2023 https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0048651/2023-10-01</p>
SDS.11.b		Are there obligations in law on authorities to consider a claim of statelessness?	<p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): Access to the procedure must be guaranteed.</p> <p>EASO/EUAA, Practical guide on registration (2021): Determining if applicants are stateless is essential when assessing the need for international protection. At registration, it is vital to collect information and detect possible cases of statelessness, but it is not appropriate to determine a person's statelessness at the registration stage.</p>	<p>No, there is no obligation in law to consider a claim for statelessness as it is an administrative procedure and not a protection status in Dutch law, so the concept of "claim for statelessness" is not applicable in the Dutch context.</p> <p>In the judicial procedure, the district court in The Hague has the obligation to consider a claim of statelessness, but only when the applicant submits a petition to the court.</p>	<p>Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ), 2013, Geen land te bekennen: een advies over de verdragsrechtelijke bescherming van staatlozen in nederland, p.73: https://acvz.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/04-12-2013_GeenLandTeBekennen.pdf (NL)</p>

			Statelessness determination should be carried out only by a competent decision-making authority at an appropriate point in time following the final assessment of an asylum claim.		
SDS.11.c		Are there clear, accessible instructions for stateless people on how to claim their rights under the 1954 Convention and/or be identified as stateless?	<p>1954 Convention UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): For procedures to be fair and efficient, access must be ensured (dissemination of info, targeted info campaigns, counselling on the procedures, etc.). UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): Information on the procedure and counselling services must be available to potential applicants in a language they understand.</p>	Yes, although this is not readily available in other languages than English and Dutch.	<p>The Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Determining Statelessness (webpage), October 2023, https://ind.nl/nl/vaststellen-staatloosheid</p> <p>UNHCR, Vaststellingsprocedure Staatloosheid (webpage), https://help.unhcr.org/netherlands/nl/vaststellingsprocedure-staatloosheid/</p>
SDS.11.d		Is there cooperation between agencies that may have contact with stateless people?	<p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): Cooperation between actors working on statelessness and the various government agencies involved in determining statelessness is good practice.</p>	<p>Municipalities are cooperating with (non-governmental) actors to improve the registration of stateless persons on a local level, and improve information-sharing and instructions to stateless persons about their registration. UNHCR may also be involved bilaterally in cases with local authorities as well as with the IND.</p> <p>There is insufficient information available about the cooperation between different government bodies.</p>	<p>ENS blog, 'Dutch municipalities take matters into their own hands while national government fails to provide solution for stateless people in the Netherlands', 16 October 2019: https://www.statelessness.eu/updates/blog/dutch-municipalities-take-matters-their-own-hands-while-national-government-fails</p> <p>Gemeente Utrecht, "Utrecht pakt staatloosheid aan met 7 ton en uitvoeringsplan" 30 November 2021: https://www.utrecht.nl/nieuws/nieuwsbericht-gemeente-utrecht/utrecht-pakt-staatloosheid-aan-met-7-ton-en-uitvoeringsplan/</p> <p>Petra Vissers, "Utrecht gaat inwoners zonder nationaliteit aan paspoort helpen: 'Het kan best zijn dat dit vies tegenvalt'" Trouw, 30 November 2021: https://www.trouw.nl/binnenland/utrecht-gaat-inwoners-zonder-nationaliteit-aan-paspoort-helpen-het-kan-best-zijn-dat-dit-vies-tegevvalt~b9f7ccb0/</p>
SDS.12.a	Assessment (Group 2)	Who has the burden of proof when determining or identifying statelessness (in law and practice)?	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): The burden of proof is in principle shared (both applicant and examiner must cooperate to obtain evidence and establish the facts). UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): SDPs must take into consideration the difficulties inherent in proving statelessness. UNHCR, Geneva Conclusions (2010): In statelessness determination procedures, the burden of proof should therefore be shared between the applicant and the authorities responsible for making the determination. Individuals must cooperate to establish relevant facts. The burden should shift to the State if an individual can demonstrate they are not a national, on the basis of reasonably available evidence. ECTHR, Hoti v. Croatia (2018): State has responsibility to at least share the burden of proof with the applicant when establishing the fact of statelessness.</p>	<p>In law, the procedure follows many of the UNHCR guidelines in terms of types of evidence, as well as the standard and the burden of proof. Since stateless persons will struggle to prove their statelessness, a shared burden of proof applies.</p> <p>The Explanatory Memorandum to the statelessness bills of 2020 discusses the procedural aspects of determining statelessness, drawing parallels with the process for determining Dutch nationality. It emphasises the importance of an active role of the judge, in line with the general stance taken in petition proceedings. The UNHCR Handbook also advocates for an investigative approach by the judge, suggesting that the determination authority should gather and present all available evidence. While the Handbook assumes a unified determination authority, it implies that the court should encourage relevant administrative bodies, like the Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND), to fulfil this role. Without sufficient information from these bodies, the judge cannot properly evaluate the petitioner's request, especially without a framework for assessing the provided information. If information from the IND or Ministry of Foreign Affairs is questioned, the judge should seek further clarification from them, potentially during a hearing. The text also highlights the unique nature of statelessness determination proceedings, where there may be less opposition compared to other petition cases. Consequently, the court must actively manage the roles of involved parties. Both the petitioner and the IND have a shared burden to provide and present relevant evidence. This collaborative approach, as emphasised by the</p>	

				<p>UNHCR and others, involves the petitioner supplying available information and evidence, while the IND gathers and presents its own.</p> <p>As of date, there is insufficient information about the practice as there have not been any decision by the District Court of The Hague in cases involving the determination of statelessness.</p>	
SDS.12.b		<p>What is the standard of proof to evidence statelessness, in law and in practice?</p>	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): States are advised to adopt the same standard of proof as in refugee status determination ('reasonable degree').</p> <p>UNHCR, Good practices in nationality laws (2018): The standard of proof should be in keeping with the humanitarian objectives of statelessness status determination and the inherent difficulties of proving statelessness in the likely absence of documentary evidence.</p> <p>EctHR, Hoti v. Croatia (2018): If statelessness is a relevant factor in the context of access to human rights, the standard of proof when determining the status of statelessness cannot be too high.</p>	<p>The Government's Explanatory Memorandum to the statelessness determination procedure bill, explains that someone claiming to be stateless can start the process with a written statement detailing their situation. The judge weighs evidence presented by both the petitioner and the relevant authority (IND). Written evidence holds more weight than statements, but credibility matters when there's a lack of documentation. Past asylum procedures can provide insight into the petitioner's reliability. The IND needs clues to investigate claims properly. The UNHCR sets a threshold for evidence, emphasizing that it's not necessary to prove the lack of nationality from every country, but rather to show that the individual isn't recognised as a national by any state they're connected to (e.g., by birth, descent, marriage, etc.). The judge's investigation typically focuses on these relevant countries unless evidence suggests otherwise.</p> <p>As of date, there is insufficient information about the practice as there have not been any decision by the District Court of The Hague in cases involving the determination of statelessness.</p>	<p>Memorandum of Explanation of the Statelessness Determination Act, 2020, https://www.eerstekamer.nl/behandeling/20201218/memorie_van_toelichting_5/document3/f=vlezzg1mq79zx.pdf</p>
SDS.12.c		<p>Is there clear guidance for decision makers on how to identify or determine statelessness (including e.g. sources of evidence and procedures for evidence gathering, accurate and reliable country of origin information relating to statelessness, etc.)?</p>	<p>ENS (2013): Determining authorities can benefit from concrete guidance that sets clear benchmarks and pathways for the establishment of material facts and circumstances.</p> <p>Asylos, Principles for Conducting Country of Origin Information Research on Statelessness (2023)</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>There is accurate and reliable country of origin information (COI) relating to statelessness, although the latest public report with COI-information specifically on statelessness from the Government is from 2016. For the administrative procedure, there are guidelines on establishing statelessness in cases of Palestinians, for cases in which the mother cannot confer her nationality and a list of countries with an established SDP.</p>	<p>Ontwerpregeling en nota van toelichting, Evidente Staatloosheid, December 2022, https://wetgevingskalender.overheid.nl/Regeling/WGK009199/Download/ccf56c85-5cf2-4308-a121-648a3f80416c_1.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum of Explanation of the Statelessness Determination Act, 2020, https://www.eerstekamer.nl/behandeling/20201218/memorie_van_toelichting_5/document3/f=vlezzg1mq79zx.pdf</p> <p>Rijksdienst voor identiteitsgegevens, 'Handleiding Uitvoeringsprocedures', 4 October 2020: https://www.rvig.nl/brp/documenten/publicaties/2020/09/25/versie-3.4-handleiding-uitvoeringsprocedure-hup</p> <p>IND, 'Statelessness: a global problem, an overview of statelessness and birth registration worldwide, September 2016 https://ind.nl/nl/documenten/05-2022/rapportstaatloosheidministeriejenv.pdf</p> <p>IND work instruction regarding Palestinians, 11 December 2020: https://ind.nl/Documents/WI%202020-19.pdf</p> <p>IND work instruction regarding obvious statelessness, 1 October 2023, https://cmr.jur.ru.nl/cmr/tbv/tbv13/23/wi.2023.10.pdf</p> <p>NVVB, 'Palestinians from Syria stateless?':</p>

					https://nvvb.nl/media/magazine-files/BR_1_STAATLOOS.pdf Ministry of Justice and Safety, Besluit Evidente Staatloosheid https://www.internetconsultatie.nl/evidentestaatloosheid/document/8786
SDS.13.a	Procedural safeguards (Group 2)	Is free legal aid available to stateless people generally?	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Applicants should have access to legal counsel; where free legal assistance is available, it should be offered to applicants without financial means.</p> <p>ENS (2013): If state funded legal aid is available, it should be provided to stateless claimants. If there is no state funded legal aid but asylum claimants can access free legal aid free of charge, the same level of access should be provided to stateless people.</p>	There is legal aid available from the state to challenge the decision in court. If the person has insufficient income, lawyers affiliated with the Raad voor Rechtsbijstand (Council for Legal Aid) can request money for the procedure from the state.	Raad voor Rechtsbijstand website (Legal Aid Board in the Netherlands): http://www.rvr.org/english
SDS.13.b		Is free interpreting available to stateless people?	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): The right to assistance with interpretation/translation [is] essential.</p> <p>ENS (2013): Assistance should be available for translation and interpretation.</p>	No, no interpreter is provided for determining statelessness in either the administrative or judicial procedure. Municipalities indicate that the person should bring an interpreter with them, or a member of staff may assist if someone speaks a shared language, or the person can return with a friend or relative to assist them.	Correspondence with the Municipalities of Amsterdam and Apeldoorn.
SDS.13.c		Are there other procedural safeguards in place in procedures through which stateless people may have their statelessness identified or determined, or regularise their stay (e.g., decisions given in writing with reasons, right to an interview, time limit, right of appeal, audits in decision-making, etc.)?	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): States are encouraged to incorporate the safeguard that decisions are made in writing with reasons. It is undesirable for a first instance decision to be issued more than six months from submission of an application. In exceptional circumstances it may be appropriate to allow the proceedings to last up to 12 months. An effective right to appeal against a negative first instance decision is an essential safeguard in an SDP.</p>	<p>General rules of administrative process apply when it comes to decisions and right to appeal for determining statelessness in the administrative procedure. Decisions granting registration usually do not provide reasons, but refusals do.</p> <p>For the judicial procedure, general rule of petition procedure apply. Applicants can, however, not appeal the decision by the Court. Cassation is possible.</p> <p>Appeal provides parties with the opportunity to have a decision of a lower court reviewed by a higher court, involving a complete reassessment of the case including evidence and arguments from both sides. This procedure focuses on checking for legal errors and incorrect factual findings of the lower court. Conversely, cassation does not entertain new facts or evidence but solely evaluates whether legal errors were committed in the decision of a higher court, emphasising the correctness of the applied law and procedure.</p>	<p>Dutch Association for Civil Affairs, Correction procedure BRP, 2015: https://nvvb.nl/media/filer_public/e8/ac/e8ac60ed-640f-48ed-bb7f-4304ba833c39/def_nvzb-ledenadvies_proces_correctie_onbekende_gebdatum_en_nat_mn_versie_2.pdf (NL)</p> <p>For example, information about BRP registration in the Municipality Apeldoorn: https://www.apeldoorn.nl/verzoek-wijzigen-gegevens (NL) (similar to other municipalities)</p> <p>National procedural regulations for petition proceedings, 2021, https://www.rechtspraak.nl/SiteCollectionDocuments/procesreglement-verzoekschriftprocedures-rechtbank-civiel-handel-voorzieningenrechter-2021.pdf</p> <p>Immigration and Naturalization Service, Determining Statelessness (webpage), accessed 06-03-2024, https://ind.nl/nl/vaststellen-staatloosheid</p>
SDS.14.a	Protection (Group 2)	Are there any rights granted to stateless people on the basis of their statelessness? If yes, please provide details.	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): The status granted to a stateless person in a State Party must reflect international standards. Although the 1954 Convention does not explicitly require States to grant a person determined to be stateless a right of residence, granting such permission would fulfil the object and purpose of the treaty.</p>	Identification of a person as stateless does not result in permission to stay/lawful residence status. Statelessness is merely a category in nationality records in Dutch law, not an immigration status or protection status.	Statelessness page, Government of the Netherlands website: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/nederlandse-nationaliteit/inhoud/staatloosheid (NL)
SDS.14.b		Are stateless people otherwise able to access their rights under the 1954 Convention? Please state whether stateless people can access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to reside - travel document - work - healthcare - social security - education - housing - family reunification - right to vote. [Section complete, proceed to DET]	<p>1954 Convention</p> <p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): The status granted to a stateless person in a State Party must reflect international standards. It is recommended that States grant recognised stateless people a residence permit valid for at least two years, although longer permits, such as five years, are preferable in the interests of stability. Permits should be renewable. States parties are encouraged to facilitate the reunification of those with recognised statelessness status with their spouses and dependents. The right to work, access to healthcare and social assistance, as well as a travel document must accompany a residence permit.</p>	<p>If a person with a residence permit is provided with a statelessness registration they can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) request a travel document 2) naturalise through a simplified procedure (after 3yrs legal stay, foreign passport not required, lower cost). <p>Stateless persons with asylum status have the right to family reunification, housing, work, healthcare, social security, education, vote in local elections.</p> <p>Stateless persons with another residence permit have the right to work, healthcare, social security, education, to vote in local elections, and may have the right to family reunification and housing depending on their permit.</p>	<p>Statelessness page, Government of the Netherlands website: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/nederlandse-nationaliteit/inhoud/staatloosheid (NL)</p> <p>Rechtbank Den Haag, 19 February 2014 (SGR 12/2490): statelessness does not lead to issuing of identity documents.</p> <p>Tweede Kamer 'Wijziging van de Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap en de Paspoortwet alsmede intrekking van voorbehouden bij het Verdrag betreffende de status van staatlozen in verband met de vaststelling van staatloosheid', 21 December 2020: https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/wetsvoorstellen/detail?id=2020Z25636&dossier=35688-%28R2151%29</p>

			<p>A child has (if legally residing) access to the right of option to Dutch nationality if born in the Netherlands after 3 years of uninterrupted legal residence. The legislative proposal for an SDP of 2016 is intending to extend the right to opt for Dutch nationality to stateless children born in the Netherlands without legal residence. However, they would have to wait 5 years instead of the usual 3 years and they would be required to have had 'stable residence', meaning the parents should have always cooperated fully with national authorities. In the most recent legislative proposal for an SDP sent to Parliament on 21 December 2020 these conditions have been changed. A stateless child born in the Netherlands without legal residence would now have to wait 10 years before it can submit an application for Dutch nationality, of which at least five uninterrupted years immediately prior to the declaration. Besides the cooperation requirement for the parents, it must be established that the child's statelessness cannot be lifted by the parents. Proposed legislation introduced an amendment to the law that lowers the requirement of 'stable residence' from 10 to 5 years. The bill was passed by the House of Representative and is currently before the Senate.</p> <p>Stateless persons without a residence document do not have access to the above, nor do they have access to the right to work, social security, social housing, education (except for minors), right to vote and family reunification/ All persons without legal residence, including stateless persons, have access to essential healthcare.</p> <p>Were the 1954 Convention to be applied directly, there is also a right to identity documents (under article 27) for persons without a residence document. As of 1 October 2023, stateless persons without lawful residence can obtain an identity document. The identity card specifies that the person is a stateless person in accordance with Dutch law. It explicitly mentions on the card that the holder does not have residency rights.</p>	<p>Tweede Kamer 'Wet vaststellingsprocedure staatloosheid', 21 December 2020: https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/wetsvoorstellen/detail?cfg=wetsvoorsteldetails&qry=wetsvoorstel%3A35687 (for requirements relating to the right to opt for Dutch nationality for stateless children without legal residence see p. 4 of the explanatory memorandum. For information regarding the right to an identity card see p. 28-29 of the explanatory memorandum)</p> <p>Tweede Kamer 'Nader gewijzigd amendement van de leden Podt en Ceder ter vervanging van dat gebruikt onder nr. 10', 30 mei 2022: https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/amendementen/detail?id=2022Z10641&did=2022D21881</p>
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Detention

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
DET.1.a	Immigration detention	<p>Please provide a brief overview of whether immigration detention powers are provided for in law and applied in practice, and whether alternatives to detention are considered.</p> <p>Please provide the legal source(s) and, if available, refer to other publications and sources of information about the law, policy, and practice on immigration detention.</p>	<p>ICCPR: Article 9 ECHR: Article 5 EU Return Directive: Article 15 UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Detention is a measure of last resort and can only be justified where other less invasive or coercive measures have been considered and found insufficient. UN General Assembly (2009): Calls upon all States to adopt alternative measures to detention. HRC, Report of the Special Rapporteur (2012): The obligation to always consider alternatives before resorting to detention should be established by law. International Detention Coalition (2015): Immigration detention should be used only as a last resort in exceptional cases after all other options have been shown to be inadequate in the individual case.</p>	<p>A foreign national may be detained on the grounds of public order or national security, where there exists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. risk that they will withdraw from supervision, or b. evade or impede preparation of departure or the expulsion procedure. <p>An exhaustive list of further criteria is specified in the Immigration Decree 2000.</p> <p>Detention can only be ordered when various conditions have been met cumulatively. The exhaustive list of further criteria seems to exceed the permissible grounds based on international standards.</p> <p>Currently the only provision on alternatives to detention is in the Immigration Act Implementation Guidelines [vreemdelingen-circulaire] which state that “the foreigner’s file must demonstrate that the official charged with border monitoring or supervision of foreigners has properly weighed interests before imposing detention”. The current available alternatives to detention are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notice to leave the Netherlands (administrative formality, usually applied when (forced) return is impossible) b. A reporting duty combined with intensive DT&V case Management c. A bail system to prevent people from absconding d. Confiscating documents - often combined with reporting duty. Usually applied for people who cooperate with return. e. Freedom-restricting measures for people who cooperate with return. f. ‘Airport lounge’ alternative to border detention for people who independently prepare to return. <p>The Dutch authorities consider immigration detention as a last resort. The law (Article 59c) provides that immigration detention under Arts. 59, 59a and 59b can only be used as a last resort.</p> <p>The Law on Return & Immigration Detention was passed by the House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) on 19 June 2018 and is now going through the Senate (Eerste Kamer). However, the announced reforms do not clearly specify how this duty to consider alternatives is to be guaranteed in individual cases. As of March 2024, the Law on Return & Immigration Detention is still with the Senate pending approval.</p> <p>A new amendment (novelle) to the proposed Law on Return & Immigration Detention has been submitted by the government on 20 June 2020. This amendment considers “maintaining possibilities to take measures against aliens that cause nuisance”. Amnesty International has expressed additional concern about the proposed law and amendment, specifically regarding isolation measures. The National Ombudsperson has also expressed criticism.</p> <p>A second amendment (‘novelle’, meaning a bill to amend a bill that is still pending in the Senate) was announced by the Government</p>	<p>Chapter 5, Article 5.1a & 5.1b, & Article 59(1), Vreemdelingenwet 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011823/2021-07-01#Hoofdstuk5 (NL)</p> <p>ENS/ASKV (2015), Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, p. 13, 18 & 22: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p> <p>Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal (Senate), Wet terugkeer en vreemdelingenbewaring (Law on return and immigration detention), https://www.eerstekamer.nl/wetsvoorstel/34309_wet_terugkeer_en (NL)</p> <p>Amendment Law on return and immigration detention ‘measures with regard to nuisance aliens’, 20 June 2020: https://www.eerstekamer.nl/wetsvoorstel/35501_novelle_maatregelen_ten</p> <p>Amnesty International, ‘Use of isolation in immigration detention has increased sharply’, 7 September 2020: https://www.amnesty.nl/actueel/gebruik-isolatie-in-vreemdelingendetentie-sterk-toegenomen</p> <p>National Ombudsperson, ‘New bill offers no solution for nuisance in immigration detention’, 26 August 2020: https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/nieuws/2020/nieuw-wetsvoorstel-biedt-geen-oplossing-voor-overlast-in-vreemdelingenbewaring</p> <p>The Government of the Netherlands website, Immigration Detention: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/terugkeer-vreemdelingen/inhoud/vreemdelingenbewaring (NL)</p> <p>Custodial Institutions Agency, Government of the Netherlands website, Wie zitten er in vreemdelingenbewaring? (Who is in immigration detention?): https://www.dji.nl/justitiabelen/vreemdelingen-in-bewaring/wie-zitten-er-in-vreemdelingenbewaring (NL)</p> <p>Article 59(c)(1), Vreemdelingenwet 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011823/2021-07-01#Hoofdstuk5 (NL)</p> <p>Government of the Netherlands, Letter from the State Secretary to the Senate, 11 April 2022: https://www.eerstekamer.nl/behandeling/20220411/brief_van_de_staatssecretaris_van_2/document3/f=/vls1jj58vkwv_opgemaakt.pdf (NL)</p>

				in April 2022. The Government requested the Senate to defer the consideration of the bill until finalisation of the second amendment, but as of March 2024 a decision on this is still pending.	
DET.1.b		Does a proposed country of removal need to be identified before a person is detained for removal? Please describe the situation in law and in practice.	<p>ICCPR: Repeated attempts to expel a person to a country that refuses to admit them could amount to inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 7).</p> <p>ECtHR, Auad v. Bulgaria (2011): In cases of detention with a view to deportation, lack of clarity as to the destination country could hamper effective control of the authorities' diligence in handling the deportation.</p> <p>EU Return Directive: Any detention shall only be maintained as long as removal arrangements are in progress and executed with due diligence.</p>	Detention is only permitted when a real prospect of removal exists, which has to be demonstrated in court by the authorities. The law does not state that a proposed country of removal needs to be identified, which is also the situation in practice. In addition to grounds related to fraud; a possibly serious criminal past; or handover to another EU country; the need for additional inquiry into a person's identity or nationality is considered a valid reason to detain. Having said this, detention for additional inquiry into a person's identity or nationality is described as being for persons who are legally staying in the country for the purpose of their request for a permit (Art.59b.1a). Meanwhile, 'no or insufficient cooperation with establishing identity and nationality' is named as one possible ground for detention of a foreigner (at least two grounds are necessary for detention to be authorised) (Art.5.1b, 3d).	<p>Chapter 5, Vreemdelingenwet 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011823/2021-07-01#Hoofdstuk5 (NL)</p> <p>ENS/ASKV (2015), Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, pp. 13, 17-19: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p>
DET.1.c		Is there a clear obligation on authorities to release a person when there is no reasonable prospect of removal? Please describe the situation in law and in practice.	<p>EU Return Directive: When it appears that a reasonable prospect of removal no longer exists, detention ceases to be justified and the person concerned shall be released immediately.</p> <p>UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2018): When the obstacle for identifying or removal of persons in an irregular situation from the territory is not attributable to them, the detainee must be released to avoid potentially indefinite detention from occurring, which would be arbitrary.</p> <p>ECtHR, Auad v. Bulgaria (2011)</p> <p>ECtHR, Mikolenko v. Estonia (2009)</p>	The law (Article 59(c)(2), Vreemdelingenwet 2000) stipulates that "Detention of a foreign national will not take place or will be terminated if it is no longer necessary with a view to the purpose of detention" and that "The detention will be lifted as soon as there are no more grounds present" (Article 5.4(3), Vreemdelingenbesluit 2000). If detention has taken place with the purpose of removal, the detention should be terminated if this prospect no longer exists.	<p>Article 59(c)(2), Vreemdelingenwet 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011823/2021-07-01#Hoofdstuk5</p> <p>Article 5.4(3), Vreemdelingenbesluit 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011825/2021-07-01#Hoofdstuk5</p>
DET.2.a	Identification of statelessness	Is statelessness juridically relevant in decisions to detain? Please describe how (risk of) statelessness is identified and whether referral to an SDP is possible from detention.	<p>ECtHR, Auad v. Bulgaria (2011)</p> <p>ECtHR, Mikolenko v. Estonia (2009): Detention may only be justified as long as deportation proceedings are being conducted with due diligence.</p> <p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Routine detention of individuals seeking protection on the grounds of statelessness is arbitrary.</p> <p>CMW, General comment No. 5 (2021): States should avoid detaining migrants who have specific needs, which includes stateless persons. States should also be aware that stateless persons find themselves in a vulnerable situation, given that consular assistance and protection are unavailable due to their status. Statelessness determination procedures are essential, given that the lack of a country of nationality to be returned to leaves stateless persons at higher risk of arbitrary and indefinite detention.</p> <p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): States must identify stateless persons within their territory or subject to their jurisdiction as a first step towards ensuring the protection of their human rights.</p> <p>ICJ, Migration and International Human Rights Law (2014): The detention of stateless persons can never be justified when there is no active or realistic progress towards transfer to another State.</p>	No, statelessness plays little to no role in the decision to detain, due to the government's policy that return to a country of former habitual residence might still be possible. Moreover, most bilateral return agreements with countries of origin include a clause on re-admitting former residents who are (presumed) stateless. The Immigration Act demands the cooperation of every person with irregular migration status, stateless or otherwise.	<p>ENS/ASKV (2015), Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, p. 18: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p>

DET.2.b		Is there a definition of vulnerability in law? If yes, does it explicitly include statelessness? If not, please note whether statelessness is considered to be a factor increasing vulnerability.	PICUM, Preventing and Addressing Vulnerabilities in Immigration Enforcement Policies (2021) : Statelessness should be explicitly included in the definition of vulnerability. Vulnerability should always be determined and assessed on an individual basis.	Currently there is no definition of vulnerability in the law. The new Law on Return & Immigration Detention (passed by the House of Representatives on 19 June 2018 and currently for consideration in the Senate) does include a definition of vulnerable persons. It reads: "persons as defined in article 21 of Directive no. 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (OJ L 180/96)". This does not include statelessness.	Ministry of Security & Justice, Regels met betrekking tot de terugkeer van vreemdelingen en vreemdelingenbewaring (Wet terugkeer en vreemdelingenbewaring) (Legislative proposal 19 June 2018): https://www.eerstekamer.nl/9370000/1/j9vkvfj6b325az/vkpf9v67fyjg/f=y.pdf Article 21, DIRECTIVE 2013/33/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32013L0033&from=NL
DET.2.c		Are individual vulnerability assessments carried out before a decision to detain (or soon after)?	ENS, Protecting Stateless Persons From Arbitrary Detention (2015) : Arbitrary and disproportionately lengthy detention can ensue when the particular vulnerabilities of stateless people are not addressed. EU Return Directive : Article 16(3) EU Return Handbook (2017) : Attention should be paid to the specific situation of stateless persons. Council of the European Union, Guidelines to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by LGBTI persons (2013) : European entities should assess the situation of LGBTI persons in detention. PICUM, Preventing and Addressing Vulnerabilities in Immigration Enforcement Policies (2021) : There should be a clear legal obligation to screen and assess individuals' vulnerability before a decision to detain is taken and before individuals are placed into situations of deprivation or restriction of liberty.	Not currently. According to the new Law on Return & Immigration Detention, more attention should be paid to vulnerability with regard to detention. The revised Law of 19 June 2018 that was passed by the House of Representatives and is currently being considered by the Senate introduces a new article on vulnerability (article 58a) which reads: "1. If it appears from the file or otherwise that there is a foreigner who is in a special or vulnerable position or if the foreign national has made it plausible that they are in a special or vulnerable position, Our Minister shall indicate from the detention order how these circumstances are involved in the decision-making. 2. Detention of a foreign national as referred to in the first paragraph is omitted if detention in connection with their special or vulnerable position would be unreasonably onerous."	Ministry of Security & Justice, Article 58a, Regels met betrekking tot de terugkeer van vreemdelingen en vreemdelingenbewaring (Wet terugkeer en vreemdelingenbewaring) (Legislative proposal 19 June 2018): https://www.eerstekamer.nl/9370000/1/j9vkvfj6b325az/vkpf9v67fyjg/f=y.pdf
DET.2.d		Are stateless people detained in practice?	As above.	Yes, but this has to be inferred from general statistics because of the lack of a procedure to determine statelessness up until October 2023 and data on stateless persons in detention. See answer under POP.2a	ENS/ASKV (2015), Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands , p. 14: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen (Custodiaal Institutions Agency), 2017. 'DJI in numbers : 2012-2016': https://data.overheid.nl/dataset/dji-in-getal-2012-2016 (NL) Dienst Justitiële Inrichtingen (Custodial Institutions Agency), 2018, In numbers: 2013-2017, pp.49-55 https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2018/08/31/dji-in-getal-2013-2017 The Custodial Institutions Agency, April 2019: https://open-pilot.overheid.nl/repository/ronl-ea1c33d0-f3ea-4cb0-8b33-6496d7639897/1/pdf/dji-infosheet-vreemdelingenbewaring-april-2019.pdf The Custodial Institutions Agency, immigration detention 2020, July 2021: https://www.dji.nl/documenten/publicaties/2020/07/01/infosheet-vreemdelingenbewaring-juli-2020
DET.3.a	Procedural safeguards	Are there adequate procedural safeguards in place for individuals in	ICCPR : Article 9(4) ECHR : Article 5(4)	A person without legal residence (Article 59 para.1(a)) can be detained in immigration detention for a maximum period of 6	Article 59, Article 5.3(1), Vreemdelingenwet 2000:

		immigration detention (e.g. maximum period of detention, automatic release at the end, decisions in writing, regular periodic reviews, judicial oversight, legal aid, etc.)?	<p>EU Return Directive: Articles 12, 13 and 15(5)</p> <p>HRC, Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2010): A maximum period of detention must be established by law and upon expiry the detainee must be automatically released.</p> <p>CMW, General comment No. 5 (2021): States parties are obligated to adopt legislative and other measures, allocate adequate resources, and provide relevant training to comply with the CMW. There should be a maximum period for immigration detention established in legislation, with automatic release at the end of that period, and which precludes re-detention. States should also be aware that stateless persons find themselves in a vulnerable situation, given that consular assistance and protection are unavailable due to their status.</p> <p>UNHCR, Detention Guidelines (2012): To guard against arbitrariness, maximum periods of detention should be set in national law.</p> <p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Judicial oversight of detention is always necessary and detained individuals need to have access to legal representation, including free counselling for those without means.</p> <p>UNGA, Body of Principles (1988): Anyone who is arrested shall be informed at the time of the reason for their arrest.</p> <p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Stateless detainees shall receive their order of detention in writing and in a language they understand. To avoid arbitrariness, detention should be subject to automatic, regular and periodic review throughout the period of detention, before a judicial body independent of the detaining authorities. Detention should always be for the shortest time possible.</p> <p>International Commission of Jurists, Migration and International Human Rights Law: A Practitioners' Guide (2014): The authorities shall ensure that sufficient information is available to detained persons in a language they understand on the nature of their detention and reasons for it.</p> <p>ECtHR, Kim v. Russia (2014): The purpose of Article 5(4) ECHR is to guarantee to persons who are detained the right to judicial supervision of the lawfulness of the measure.</p>	<p>months (para. 5). This can then be extended by another 12 months with a total maximum of 18 months (para. 6). Detainees are automatically released at the end of this maximum time limit.</p> <p>The law provides that individuals must be informed in writing of the reasons for their immigration detention.</p> <p>People may be held in pre-detention at the police station for a few days, before being transferred to a detention centre. There the process of removal is initiated by the DT&V (Return & Departure Service), and the decision to detain is then submitted to a court, “legally within four weeks but in practice after 10-12 days in detention”. Within two weeks of submission the court is obliged to render a judgment, which can be appealed. After six months, another judicial review is mandatory, if the DT&V decides to extend detention for a maximum of twelve more months.</p> <p>The decision by the court to detain can be appealed by the individual. In addition, detainees can ask a judge to re-examine the lawfulness of their detention at any time, for instance checking the continued prospect of removal. Higher appeal against the appeal decision is possible by both the detainee and the IND.</p> <p>If the person has insufficient income, lawyers affiliated with the “Raad voor Rechtsbijstand” (Council for Legal Aid) can request money for the procedure from the state. By law, a lawyer will be assigned on detention. In practice, there are reports from people in detention that mention communication difficulties due to people not having credit to call their lawyer from detention, lack of interpreters, or lack of knowledge of detention law among asylum lawyers.</p>	<p>https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011823/2020-05-14#Hoofdstuk5 (NL)</p> <p>ENS/ASKV (2015), Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, pp. 17-18: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p> <p>Articles 94 & 96, Vreemdelingenwet 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011823/2020-05-14#Hoofdstuk7 (NL)</p> <p>Article 5.3(1), Vreemdelingenbesluit 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011825/2020-08-01#Hoofdstuk5 (NL)</p> <p>De Rechtspraak, Procedure vreemdelingenbewaring (Immigration detention procedure): https://www.rechtspraak.nl/Uw-Situatie/Vreemdelingenbewaring/Paginas/procedure.aspx#tabs (NL)</p> <p>Website of the Raad voor Rechtsbijstand (Legal Aid Board in the Netherlands): http://www.rvr.org/english</p> <p>Website of the Judiciary of the Netherlands: https://www.rechtspraak.nl/Uw-Situatie/Onderwerpen/Vreemdelingenbewaring/Paginas/procedure.aspx#ad340537-dbf5-4957-9095-8ee4159993130 (NL)</p> <p>Information provided by Meldpunt Vreemdelingendetentie (Immigration Detention Hotline): http://meldpuntvreemdelingendetentie.nl/ (NL)</p>
DET.3.b		Are detainees provided with information on their rights, contact details of legal advice and support providers, and guidance on how to access an SDP?	<p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Detaining authorities are urged to provide stateless detainees with a handbook in a language and terms they understand, containing information on all their rights and entitlements, contact details of organisations which are mandated to protect them, NGOs and visiting groups and advice on how to challenge the legality of their detention and their treatment as detainees.</p>	<p>Detainees are informed about challenging the legality of their detention and the opportunity to receive free legal aid and representation. A lawyer can submit an application to determine statelessness even if the applicant is detained.</p>	<p>Article 5.3(1), Vreemdelingenbesluit 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0011825/2020-08-01#Hoofdstuk5 (NL)</p>
DET.3.c		Are there guidelines in place governing the process of re-documentation and ascertaining entitlement to nationality for the purpose of removal?	<p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): The inability of a stateless person to cooperate with removal proceedings should not be treated as non-cooperation.</p>	<p>While a person is in detention, so called ‘return interviews’ are conducted with the DT&V officer to facilitate return and help with guidance on re-documentation. The Dutch authorities (DT&V) will present the person at the relevant embassies for a laissez-passer</p>	<p>ENS/ASKV (2015), Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, pp. 12, 20-22: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p>

			<p>ENS, Protecting Stateless Persons From Arbitrary Detention (2015): The detaining state should have rules in place that govern the process of re-documentation and/ or ascertaining entitlement to nationality.</p>	<p>and sometimes necessary calls for further information from local authorities will be made. The person is responsible for all other matters involved in re-documentation. They are obliged to provide documents that prove their nationality and identity. Without these documents presentations at the embassy are often futile. In practice people waste years in detention trying to secure travel documents through futile embassy visits. Civil society organisations advocate for a time limit to be set, as many embassies have a reputation of taking a very long time to respond to requests if at all. The outcome of this process may inform the so called ‘no-fault’ procedure in which a person can obtain a residence permit on the basis that they are unable to return due to no fault of their own. This procedure is strongly criticised due to its one-sided and stringent burden of proof; its low approval rate; the absent formal recognition of statelessness and subsequent difficulty in invoking the rights enshrined in the Statelessness Conventions; the provision of considerable subjective discretion to immigration authorities; and the requirement that there is no uncertainty about the applicant’s identity and nationality.</p>	
DET.4.a	Protections on release	<p>Are people released from detention issued with identification documents (including confirmation of their statelessness status) and protected from re-detention?</p>	<p>1954 Convention: Article 27 UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Being undocumented cannot be used as a general justification for detention. CMW, General comment No. 5 (2021): There should be a maximum period for immigration detention established in legislation, with automatic release at the end of that period, and which precludes re-detention. Statelessness determination procedures are essential, given that the lack of a country of nationality to be returned to leaves stateless persons at higher risk of arbitrary and indefinite detention. Detaining stateless persons when there is no real prospect of removal would render the detention arbitrary, and the detained stateless person must therefore be immediately released. ENS, Protecting Stateless Persons From Arbitrary Detention (2015): State parties to the 1954 Convention have an obligation to provide stay rights to stateless people who have been released from detention. Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Released stateless detainees should be provided with appropriate documentation and stay rights suitable to their situation.</p>	<p>No. After release, re-detention is possible immediately if circumstances have changed that justify the re-detention.</p>	<p>Article 5/6.7, Vreemdelingencirculaire 2000: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0012287/2020-10-01#Circulaire.divisieA5 (NL)</p>
DET.4.b		<p>If the purpose of detention cannot be fulfilled and the person is released, what legal status and rights are provided to them in law?</p>	<p>CJEU, Kadzoev, C-357/09 PPU (2009): After the maximum period of detention has expired, the person must be released immediately. A lack of valid documentation or inability to support themselves should not be a deterrent to release. Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Released stateless detainees should be provided with appropriate documentation and stay rights suitable to their situation.</p>	<p>There is no legal status provided by law after release. A person will not be able to access social services, accommodation, welfare, education and healthcare nor have the right to work. It is possible that the person could apply for legal status through the so called ‘no-fault’ procedure in which a person can obtain a residence permit on the basis that they are unable to return due to no fault of their own. This procedure is strongly criticised due to its one-sided and stringent burden of proof; its low approval rate; the absent formal recognition of statelessness and subsequent difficulty in invoking the rights enshrined in the Statelessness Conventions; the provision of considerable subjective discretion to immigration authorities; and the requirement that there is no uncertainty about the applicant’s identity and nationality.</p>	<p>ENS/ASKV (2015), Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, pp. 25, 27: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p>

DET.5.a	Return and readmission agreements	Is statelessness considered a juridically relevant fact in any bilateral readmission and/or return agreements?	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Efforts to secure admission or readmission may be justified but these need to take place subsequent to a determination of statelessness.</p> <p>UNCRC, MKAH v Switzerland, no 95/2019 (2021): The State in which a stateless child applies for international protection has an obligation under Article 7 CRC to consider whether, if the child was returned to another country, their right to a nationality would be fulfilled (as well as other rights under the CRC).</p>	<p>Most bilateral return agreements with countries of origin include a clause on readmitting former residents who are (presumed) stateless.</p> <p>In the asylum procedure, before a decision to return a child is made, the child’s right to a nationality, and their enjoyment of other fundamental rights in the country of return, are taken into consideration. In practice, however, stateless children are not automatically granted an asylum permit.</p>	<p>ENS/ASKV (2015), Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention in the Netherlands, p. 18: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Reports_Netherlands.pdf</p>
DET.5.b		Are you aware of cases of stateless people being returned under such agreements?		There have been cases of people with disputed/unknown nationality returned under such agreements, including to Guinea and DRC.	ASKV casework/practice.

Prevention and Reduction

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
PRS.1.a	Naturalisation	In what timeframe do stateless people who are residing on the territory acquire the right to apply for naturalisation, and how does this compare to others with a foreign nationality?	<p>1954 Convention: Article 32</p> <p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): It is recommended that States Parties facilitate, as far as possible, the naturalisation of stateless persons.</p> <p>CoE Committee of Ministers, Recommendation No. R (99) 18 (1999): Each State should facilitate the acquisition of its nationality by stateless persons lawfully and habitually resident on its territory.</p> <p>ENS (2013): The main benchmark is if there is any preferential treatment for stateless people compared to the general rules applied to those with a foreign nationality.</p>	<p>Stateless persons not born in the Netherlands can request Dutch nationality after three years of lawful stay instead of the normal five years for others with a foreign nationality.</p> <p>Stateless persons born in the Netherlands and stateless children born in the Netherlands can become Dutch nationals through the option procedure after three years when they are in possession of a residence permit. There is no age limit for a stateless child born on the territory to acquire nationality if they have a residence permit. For children who do not have a right to reside but can demonstrate uninterrupted stable residence, the age limit is 21 years.</p> <p>As of 1 October 2023, an amendment to the Dutch Nationality Act has extended the right to Dutch nationality to stateless children born in the Netherlands who don't have the right to reside in the country. Previously, these children could only acquire Dutch nationality after three years of lawful residence. Now, they may acquire nationality if they can demonstrate "uninterrupted stable residence" in the Netherlands for at least five years. Initially proposed as a 10-year requirement, political negotiations reduced it to five years. However, there remains a troubling disparity in treatment between children with and without residence permits.</p> <p>Another unresolved issue pertains to the requirement of 'stable residence'. The Explanatory Memorandum interprets it as residence where neither the child nor the parents have shown resistance to being removed from the Netherlands or lack of cooperation with authorities. This interpretation raises concerns as it may contravene international norms, particularly Article 1 of the 1961 Convention, which does not impose such conditions. The Advisory Division of the Council of State has also highlighted this problem to the government, recommending adherence to the concept of 'habitual residence', but this advice was rejected. Beyond potential violations of the 1961 Convention, the requirement of 'stable residence' and its interpretation pose challenges under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which safeguards the right of all children to acquire a nationality without discrimination based on their parents' status or actions (Article 7), and strictly prohibits penalising children for their parents' actions (Article 2), raising concerns if Dutch nationality is withheld due to insufficient parental cooperation with immigration authorities.</p>	<p>IND, Naturalisation: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/Naturalisation.aspx</p> <p>IND, Option: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/Option.aspx</p>
PRS.1.b		Are there requirements relating to 'good character' or previous criminal convictions that could prevent some stateless people from naturalising? If yes, please describe.	<p>CoE Committee of Ministers, Recommendation No. R (99) 18 (1999): States should ensure that offences, when relevant for the decision concerning the acquisition of nationality, do not unreasonably prevent stateless persons seeking the nationality of a state.</p>	<p>Yes. The person may not be a threat to the public order or national security of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The IND will not process the application for naturalisation or option when one or more of the following situations apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The person is suspected of a crime and could receive a sentence for this. - The person has been convicted of a crime in the 5 years before the application for naturalisation or the option statement (or the related decision). - The person is suspected of or has been convicted of crimes under Article 1F Refugee Convention. - The person is in a polygamous marriage. 	<p>IND, Public order policy for procedures to become a Dutch citizen: https://ind.nl/en/Pages/Public-order-policy-naturalisation.aspx</p>

				Additionally, Dutch nationality may be revoked if the person withholds relevant information.	
PRS.1.c		Are there exemptions for stateless people from any nationality or integration test, language, income or fee requirements for naturalisation? Please describe the requirements and cost of the procedure for stateless adults and children, and any direct or indirect barriers to naturalisation caused by discriminatory laws, policies, or practices.	<p>1954 Convention: Article 32</p> <p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): It is recommended that States Parties facilitate, as far as possible, the naturalisation of stateless persons.</p> <p>CoE Committee of Ministers, Recommendation No. R (99) 18 (1999): Each State should facilitate the acquisition of its nationality by stateless persons lawfully and habitually resident on its territory.</p> <p>UNHCR, Background Note on Discrimination in Nationality Laws and Statelessness (2021): States should remove or amend discriminatory legal provisions, rules, policies, or practices that directly or indirectly act as barriers to naturalisation.</p>	<p>Stateless persons and children are exempt from providing a passport but have to provide a birth certificate. Naturalisation costs for stateless persons, as well as for persons holding an asylum permit, are reduced to 760 EUR (in 2024) (instead of 1,023 EUR for people with a nationality holding a non-asylum permit). There is no special fee for stateless persons under the Option procedure, but it is considerably cheaper than the regular naturalisation procedure (217 EUR in 2024). There are no exemptions for the language tests particularly for stateless persons. All children are exempt from the language test.</p> <p>There are reports of indirect discrimination against marginalised groups (e.g. Romani people) that have difficulties proving their statelessness and/or are registered with an 'unknown nationality'. They need to prove their identity with documents, such as a birth certificate or a passport. In most cases, naturalisation also requires renouncing the previous nationality, which can be a barrier.</p> <p>Recognised stateless persons must be able to submit a birth certificate if they wish to be naturalised. This can pose a problem for stateless persons. For stateless persons (with regular residence), who are recognised as such, the cause of statelessness is included in the determination of the lack of evidence and it is determined whether it is plausible that the applicant cannot provide a birth certificate.</p>	<p>IND, Naturalisation: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/Naturalisation.aspx</p> <p>IND, Option: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/Option.aspx</p> <p>Verwey-Jonker Institute, 'Bijzonder ingewikkeld om aan papieren te komen', 2022 https://repository.wodc.nl/bitstream/handle/20.500.12832/3207/3250-bijzonder-ingewikkeld-om-aan-papieren-te-komen-volledige-tekst.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y</p> <p>ASKV</p>
PRS.2.a	Stateless born on territory	Is there a provision in law for stateless children born on the territory to acquire nationality? [If yes, continue to PRS2b. If no, proceed to PRS2i]	<p>1961 Convention: Article 1</p> <p>ECN: Article 2</p> <p>CRC: Article 7</p> <p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC: States should strengthen measures to grant nationality to children born in their territory in situations where they would otherwise be stateless.</p> <p>HRC, CCPR General comment No. 17 (1989): States are required to adopt every appropriate measure, both internally and in cooperation with other States, to ensure that every child has a nationality when he is born.</p> <p>European Parliament resolution (2018): The EU and its MS should ensure that childhood statelessness is adequately addressed in national laws in full compliance with Article 7 CRC.</p>	Yes.	Article 6(1)(b), Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap (Act on Dutch Nationality): https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk3 (NL)
PRS.2.b		Is the provision for otherwise stateless children to acquire nationality automatic or non-automatic (i.e. by application)?	<p>UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012): The 1961 Convention provides Contracting States with two alternatives for granting nationality to otherwise stateless children born in their territory: either automatic acquisition upon birth or upon application.</p> <p>ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015): The 1961 Convention and the European Convention on Nationality oblige the conferral of nationality to otherwise stateless children born on the territory. The optimal method is to grant nationality automatically at birth.</p>	<p>It is non-automatic. A written statement must be made that is approved. Stateless children born in the Netherlands who would otherwise be stateless can obtain Dutch nationality in two situations.</p> <p>The child with a residence permit needs to meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> born on the territory; at least 3 years continuous lawful and permanent residence on the territory; and stateless since birth <p>As of 1 October 2023, an amendment to the Dutch Nationality Act extended the right to Dutch nationality to stateless children born in the Netherlands who lack the right to reside in the country.</p>	Article 6(1)(b and q), Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2023-10-01 (NL)

				<p>Previously, these children could only acquire Dutch nationality after three years of lawful residence. Now, they may acquire nationality if they can demonstrate “uninterrupted stable residence” in the Netherlands for at least five years. The child needs to meet the following (other) criteria;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be born on the territory; - have at least 5 years continuous and uninterrupted stable residence; - be stateless since birth; - being unable to reasonably obtain any other nationality. <p>The concept of ‘stable residence’ has three additional criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the child has resided continuously for at least 5 years in the Kingdom of the Netherlands; - That the child and their parents have always actively cooperated with removal attempts; - That the child and their parents have always remained visible to the Dutch State. <p>The Explanatory Memorandum to the amendment interprets ‘stable residence’ as residence where neither the child nor the parents have shown resistance to being removed from the Netherlands or lack of cooperation with authorities. This interpretation raises concerns as it may contravene international norms, particularly Article 1 of the 1961 Convention, which does not impose such conditions. The Advisory Division of the Council of State has also highlighted this problem to the government, recommending adherence to the concept of ‘habitual residence’, but this advice was rejected. Beyond potential violations of the 1961 Convention, the requirement of ‘stable residence’ and its interpretation pose challenges under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which safeguards the right of all children to acquire a nationality without discrimination based on their parents’ status or actions (Article 7), and strictly prohibits penalising children for their parents’ actions (Article 2), raising concerns if Dutch nationality is withheld due to insufficient parental cooperation with immigration authorities.</p>	
<p>PRS.2.c</p>		<p>Are parents provided with information about their child’s nationality rights and relevant procedures, including where the child would otherwise be stateless or has undetermined nationality?</p>	<p>UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012): Contracting States are obliged to provide detailed information to parents of children who would otherwise be stateless or of undetermined nationality about the possibility of acquiring the nationality, how to apply and about the conditions which must be fulfilled. If the child concerned can acquire the nationality of a parent immediately after birth, States that opt to not grant nationality to children in these circumstances must assist parents in initiating the relevant procedure with the authorities of their State or States of nationality.</p>	<p>The government provides public information about naturalisation procedures and requirements for children through various resources, including through the Government of the Netherlands webpage, the Immigration and Naturalisation service and local municipalities. On these webpages, additional information is provided in case of statelessness or when you do not possess the required documentation to prove identity and nationality.</p> <p>Additional information and legal advice on naturalisation for children is provided by other sources, including the Dutch Refugee Council for Refugees and Het Juridisch Loket (Legal Aid Desk, funded by the Ministry of Justice & Security).</p>	<p>Government of the Netherlands, Dutch Nationality, available at: https://www.government.nl/topics/dutch-nationality</p> <p>Government of the Netherlands, "Statelessness", available at: https://www.government.nl/topics/dutch-nationality/statelessness</p> <p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service, "Becoming a Dutch Citizen", available at: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service, "Lack of documentary evidence" Available at: https://ind.nl/en/Pages/Lack-of-documentary-evidence.aspx</p> <p>(Municipality example) Municipality Amsterdam, "Naturalisatie", available at: https://www.amsterdam.nl/burgerzaken/naturalisatie/</p> <p>Dutch Council for Refugees, "Naturalisatie: Hoe word je Nederlander?", available at:</p>

					https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/feiten-cijfers/procedures-wetten-beleid/naturalisatie Het Juridisch Loket, "Hoe kan ik Nederlander worden door naturalisatie?" Available at: https://www.juridischloket.nl/familie-en-relatie/buitenlandse-partner-of-gezin/nederlander-naturalisatie/
PRS.2.d		Is it a requirement that the parents are also stateless for the otherwise stateless child to acquire nationality?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : The test is not an inquiry into whether a child's parents are stateless. ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015) : Only allowing access to nationality for stateless children whose parents are stateless fails to account for the circumstance where the parents hold a nationality but are unable to pass this on.	This is not a requirement mentioned in the law. There are circumstances in which the parent of the child may have nationality but cannot confer this on the child (e.g. mothers from Somalia). This is recognised by the Dutch state. The latest Handleiding Uitvoeringsprocedures (Implementing Procedures Manual) of October 2020 states that children of Portuguese parents are temporarily registered as 'nationality unknown' until their birth is registered with the Portuguese authorities and Portuguese nationality can be obtained.	Article 6(1), Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk3 (NL) Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ), 2013, Geen land te bekennen een advies over de verdragsrechtelijke bescherming van staatlozen in nederland, pp.33-34: https://acvz.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/04-12-2013-GeenLandTeBekennen.pdf (NL) Handleiding Uitvoeringsprocedures Brp (4 October 2020) (Implementing Procedures Manual for BRP employees), p. 135: https://www.rvig.nl/brp/documenten/publicaties/2020/09/25/versie-3.4-handleiding-uitvoeringsprocedure-hup (NL) Rijksdienst voor identiteitsgegevens, 'Handleiding Uitvoeringsprocedures', 4 October 2020, p. 135: https://www.rvig.nl/brp/documenten/publicaties/2020/09/25/versie-3.4-handleiding-uitvoeringsprocedure-hup
PRS.2.e		Are stateless children required to prove they cannot access another nationality to acquire the nationality of the country of birth? If yes, please describe how this is determined in practice.	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : A Contracting State cannot avoid the obligations to grant its nationality to a person who would otherwise be stateless based on its own interpretation of another State's nationality laws. The burden of proof must be shared between the claimant and the authorities, but in the case of children the State assumes a greater share of the burden of proof. Decision-makers must consider Articles 3 & 7 CRC and adopt an appropriate standard of proof. Special procedural considerations to address the acute challenges faced by children in communicating basic facts about their nationality should be respected.	Whether the otherwise stateless child can or cannot get another nationality depends on the legal status of the child. For children with a residence permit, there is no requirement that the child cannot access another nationality. For children without a residence permit who wish to obtain Dutch nationality through article 6(1)(q) need to fulfil the criteria they cannot reasonably get another nationality.	UNCHR, 2011, Mapping statelessness in the Netherlands, p.49: http://www.refworld.org/docid/4eef65da2.html (E) and http://www.aoo.nl/downloads/2014-09-12-UN.pdf (NL) Relevant case law includes: ABRvS, 17 augustus 2016, 201504891/1/A3 ABRvS, 30 november 2016, 201506952/1/A3 ABRvS, 15 oktober 2014, 201402113/1/A3 ABRvS, 21 mei 2014, 201302776/1/A3 Article 6(1)(b and q), Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2023-10-01
PRS.2.f		Is a stateless child born on the territory required to fulfil a period of residence to be granted nationality? If yes, please specify length and if this must be legal residence.	1961 Convention : Article 1(2) UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : States may stipulate that an otherwise stateless individual born in its territory fulfils a period of 'habitual residence' (understood as stable, factual residence, not legal or formal residence) not exceeding five years preceding an application nor ten years in all. CRC : Articles 3 & 7 Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the Netherlands (2015) : Recommends the State party ensure that all stateless children born in its territory, irrespective of residency status, have access to nationality without any conditions. ECN : Article 6(2)(b)	Yes, the stateless child should have had permission to stay and habitual residence for a continuous period of at least three years, or uninterrupted stable residence for five years if the State has not permitted their stay. See PRS2.b. for details	Article 6(1)(b and q), Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2023-10-01

PRS.2.g		Are the parents of a stateless child required to fulfil a period of residence for the child to be granted nationality? If yes, please specify length and if this must be legal residence.	Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on Czech Republic (2011) : The outcome of an application by the parents of a child born on the territory should not prejudice the right of the child to acquire the nationality of the State. ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015) : Demanding that the child or their parents reside lawfully on the territory is prohibited by the 1961 Convention.	No.	Article 6(1)(b and q), Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2023-10-01
PRS.2.h		What are the age limits and fees (if any) for making an application for nationality for a stateless person born on the territory?	1961 Convention : Article 1(2) UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Contracting States need to accept applications lodged at a time beginning not later than the age of 18 and ending not earlier than the age of 21. Where Contracting States grant nationality to individuals who would otherwise be stateless upon application, they are encouraged to accept such applications free of charge. ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015) : Closing the window of opportunity to apply for a nationality has the effect of leaving it in the hands of parents to take the necessary steps to secure a nationality for their child.	Whether there is an age limit depends on the legal status of the child born in the Netherlands when applying for Dutch nationality. If the child has a residence permit, there is no age limit. For other children, there is an age limit of 21 years. The fees for this so-called "option procedure" are 217 EUR.	Immigration and Naturalisation Service website, Opting for Dutch nationality: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/Option.aspx Article 6(1)(b and q), Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2023-10-01
PRS.2.i		Are there specific provisions to protect the right to a nationality of children born to refugees?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Where the nationality of the parents can be acquired through a registration or other procedure, this will be impossible owing to the very nature of refugee status which precludes refugee parents from contacting their consular authorities.	Persons with a permit on asylum grounds are not allowed to be required to request documents from their embassies under the Dutch Nationality Law. Children with a permanent asylum residence permit do not need to provide a birth certificate or passport to obtain Dutch nationality. The child only needs to show a birth certificate when the child is born in another country than the country from which the child has fled. If the child has a Dutch birth certificate it is also not necessary to show a passport. This also applies to children with birth certificates from countries that belong to the Apostille Convention .	Handleiding Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap 2003, para. 2.2.5.1: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBW33099/2020-10-15 (NL) Immigration and Naturalisation Service, "Lack of documentary evidence" Available at: https://ind.nl/en/Pages/Lack-of-documentary-evidence.aspx Art. 2.15 Wet Basisregistratie Personen (Law Population Register): https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0033715/2019-02-03#
PRS.3.a	Foundlings	Are foundlings granted nationality automatically by law? If not automatic, please describe the procedure.	1961 Convention : Article 2 ECN : Article 6(1)(b)	Yes, foundlings are granted nationality by law. This is automatic, a foundling will be regarded as a child of someone with Dutch nationality.	25 891 (R 1609) Wijziging van de Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap met betrekking tot de verkrijging, de verlening en het verlies van het Nederlandschap: https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/dossier/25891-(R1609)/kst-25891-7?resultIndex=39&sorttype=1&sortorder=4 (NL) Article 3(2), Handleiding Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap 2003: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBW33099/2020-10-15#Circulaire.divisie3_Circulaire.divisie3.2 (NL)
PRS.3.b		Is there an age limit (e.g. 'new-born' or 'infant') in law or practice specifying when a foundling would qualify for nationality?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : At a minimum, the safeguard should apply to all young children who are not yet able to communicate information about the identity of their parents or their place of birth.	No age limit or status is specified in the law, though it refers to 'young age' and 'a child'. The legal definition of a child is under 18 years-old, so this can be said to be the age limit.	Article 3(2), Handleiding Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap 2003: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBW33099/2020-10-15#Circulaire.divisie3_Circulaire.divisie3.2 (NL)
PRS.3.c		Can nationality be withdrawn from foundlings if this leads to statelessness?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Nationality acquired by foundlings may only be lost if it is proven that the child possesses another nationality.	No, this is not possible. If it becomes clear that the child possesses another nationality within five years starting from the date on which the child is found, then the child is no longer regarded as having Dutch nationality. However, if this leads to statelessness then the child maintains Dutch nationality. If the parents are identified after six years of birth, then the child retains Dutch nationality.	Article 3(2), Handleiding Rijkswet op het Nederlandschap 2003: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBW33099/2020-10-15#Circulaire.divisie3_Circulaire.divisie3.2 (NL)

PRS.4.a	Adoption	Where a child national is adopted by foreign parent(s), does the child lose their original nationality before the new nationality is acquired?	<p>1961 Convention: Article 5 ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015): Children may be exposed to a (temporary) risk of statelessness during the adoption process due to the nationality law of the child's country of origin.</p>	<p>A child will not lose its Dutch nationality before another nationality has been adopted. Furthermore, a child may retain Dutch nationality in addition to the new nationality when the child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. also has a parent or adoptive parent who is Dutch at the time of the relevant act and as long as this (adoptive) parent is Dutch; Or before that date, if the Dutchman died (unless there is proof of fraudulent acts) b. becomes stateless (unless there is proof of fraudulent acts) c. is a third generation national (unless he waives Dutch nationality, provided he has the nationality of a parent or adoptive parent) d. is given the same nationality as a parent or adoptive parent and their second (adoptive) parent is Dutch. Later loss of Dutch nationality by this second (adoptive) parent is not relevant in this case; e. has been born in the country of the new nationality acquired and has their principal residence if he obtains the foreign nationality (unless he waives Dutch nationality, provided he has the nationality of a parent or adoptive parent) f. has (or has had) a permanent residence for a continuous period of at least five years in the country of which he obtains the new nationality (unless he waives Dutch nationality, provided he has the nationality of a parent or adoptive parent). 	<p>Government of the Netherlands website, Minors and Dutch nationality: https://www.government.nl/documents/publications/2017/10/05/minors-and-loss-of-dutch-nationality</p>
PRS.4.b		Does a foreign child adopted by national parents acquire nationality? Please specify any age limits and/or risk of statelessness during the adoption process.	<p>ECN: Article 6(4)(d) Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations on Switzerland (2015): Ensure that the child is not stateless or discriminated against during the waiting period between arrival and formal adoption.</p>	<p>Yes, children with one or more Dutch adoptive parents obtain Dutch nationality by law when it concerns a 'strong' (full) adoption. A 'strong' adoption means that the original legal family ties between the child and the former parents are broken. Children who live abroad together with their adoptive parents during the adoption request and decision can legally become Dutch nationals when the foreign adoption decision is also legally recognised. Minor children who have been adopted outside the Netherlands by at least one Dutch parent who has a 'beginseltoestemming' (a statement from the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security that the parent is fit to adopt a foreign child), become Dutch nationals as soon as the Dutch judge has recognised the foreign adoption. In case of a 'weak' adoption (where the legal family ties between the child and original parents still exist) the minor child can only obtain Dutch nationality when the Dutch judge has converted the adoption into an adoption under Dutch law. In these cases, the minor adopted child will only become a Dutch national when the (foreign) adoption decision has obtained res judicata ('kracht van gewijsde'). The law maintains that the child should be a minor on the day of the decision (under 18 years). This process is not automatic as conditions must be met, which could cause obstacles in practice, though no information is available as to whether this has caused issues for adopted children. When the adoption decision is confirmed under Dutch law, Dutch nationality will be obtained. Potential loss of the original nationality depends on other countries' nationality laws over which the Dutch state has no influence (e.g. China does not allow dual nationality; under</p>	<p>Everaert Lawyers, Adoption and Dutch nationality: https://www.everaert.nl/nl/15-particulieren-nl/107-adoptie-en-de-nederlandse-nationaliteit</p> <p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Adoptie- of pleegkind: https://ind.nl/Familie/Paginas/Adoptie--of-pleegkind.aspx (NL)</p> <p>Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap (Dutch nationality law), Arts. 5, 5a & 5b: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk5 (NL)</p>

				Brazilian law, Brazilian nationality can't be lost due to adoption). Assuming that the original nationality will be lost only upon obtaining Dutch nationality, statelessness will not occur.	
PRS.5.a	Ius sanguinis	Can children born to nationals abroad acquire nationality by descent (<i>ius sanguinis</i>) in general and/or if they would otherwise be stateless?	1961 Convention : Article 4 UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Where a child who would otherwise be stateless is born to parents of another Contracting State but does not acquire the nationality of the State of birth responsibility falls to the Contracting State of the parents to grant its nationality to the child.	Yes, children with parents of Dutch nationality have access to nationality by descent.	Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Dutch citizen by birth or acknowledgement: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/by-birth-or-acknowledgement.aspx Article 3(1) & 4, Handleiding Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap 2003: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBW33099/2020-10-15# (NL) ECLI:NL:PHR:2017:8, 13 January 2017, para. 2.26-2.27: https://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI:NL:PHR:2017:8 (NL) Oration Prof. Mr. Gerard-René de Groot, Towards a Toolbox for Nationality Legislation, pp. 14-17: https://cris.maastrichtuniversity.nl/portal/files/5717469/Oratie_Groot.pdf
PRS.5.b		Are there any discriminatory conditions in law and/or practice for the acquisition of nationality by descent (e.g. differential treatment of children born out of wedlock, rights of father/mother/same-sex parents to confer nationality, etc.)?	ECtHR, Genovese v. Malta (2011) : The state must ensure that the right to nationality is secured without discrimination. CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 (2014) : Requires States parties to ensure that women and men have equal rights to confer their nationality to their children and that any obstacles to practical implementation of such laws are removed. UNHCR, Background Note on Gender Equality, Nationality Laws and Statelessness 2023 : Nationality laws which do not grant women equality with men in conferring nationality to their children are a cause of statelessness. UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014) : Action 4	Yes. In the case of a Dutch father and a foreign mother, the father needs to officially acknowledge the child within 7 years of the birth if he is not married with the mother. If the Dutch father acknowledged the child at or after the age of 7, then the person acknowledging the child must present DNA evidence that shows that he is the biological father in order to pass on the Dutch nationality. He must do so within 1 year of the acknowledgement. A judgment from the Supreme Court of the Netherlands, referring to Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 and explanatory memorandum of the Council of Europe, found that the requirement of DNA proof is not in accordance with the European Convention on Nationality (ECN), although it is stated that it is not forbidden by the ECN. In addition, Prof. Gerard-René de Groot considers the requirement of a DNA test to be discriminatory and not in conformity with international standards. If a parent acquires Dutch nationality after acknowledging the child, the child can only apply for Dutch nationality together with this parent if he or she immediately before the application has a valid permanent residence permit. If the child is 16 or 17 years old, they are also required to have lived uninterruptedly in the Netherlands for at least 3 years. This discriminates the child based on their residency status. Dutch nationality is automatically obtained by the child if the father already has Dutch nationality at the time of acknowledgement and acknowledges the child after birth, but before their 7 th birthday. Further, ASKV sees in practice that Dutch fathers can face difficulties and delays acknowledging their child when the mother does not have residence rights and official identification documents.	Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Dutch citizen by birth or acknowledgement: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/by-birth-or-acknowledgement.aspx Article 3(1) & 4, Handleiding Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap 2003: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBW33099/2020-10-15# (NL) Dutch Supreme Court, ECLI:NL:PHR:2017:8, 13 January 2017, para. 2.26-2.27: https://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI:NL:PHR:2017:8 (NL) Council of Europe, Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 and explanatory memorandum, 2010: https://www.refworld.org/docid/4dc7bf1c2.html Oration Prof. Mr. Gerard-René de Groot, Towards a Toolbox for Nationality Legislation, pp. 14-17: https://cris.maastrichtuniversity.nl/portal/files/5717469/Oratie_Groot.pdf Immigration and Naturalisation Service, 'Naturalisation' (see paragraphs 'Children under 16' and 'Children of 16 or 17 years old'): https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/Naturalisation.aspx and article 11(2) and 11(3) of the Dutch Nationality Act : https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk4 Immigration and Naturalisation Service, 'Dutch citizen by birth or acknowledgement':

					https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/by-birth-or-acknowledgement.aspx and article 4(2) of the Dutch Nationality Act : https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk2
PRS.6.a	Birth registration	Does the law provide that all children are registered immediately upon birth regardless of the migration or residence status, sexual and/or gender identity of their parents, or other characteristics?	CRC : Article 7 ICCPR : Article 24(2) CoE, Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 (2009) : Member states should register the birth of all children born on their territory even if they are born to a foreign parent with an irregular immigration status or the parents are unknown. UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Article 7 CRC applies irrespective of the nationality, statelessness or residence status of the parents. UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014) : Action 7 UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.9 European Parliament, Resolution on LGBTIQ rights in the EU (2021) : Calls on States to overcome discrimination against rainbow persons and families. UNHCR and UNICEF, Background Note on Sex Discrimination in Birth Registration (2021) : All parents regardless of their sex should have equal rights to register the births of their children without discrimination. Laws or regulations that provide that only opposite sex parents may register the birth of children should be reformed.	Yes. A child must be registered within three days of birth. A valid identity card is required for registration. When neither parent has legal residence, the same conditions apply and there are multiple options to register the child (in order of preference): 1. One of the parents who has a valid identity document (this doesn't have to be Dutch) 2. Someone who was present at the birth 3. Main tenant of the house 4. Officer of the civil registry. If the child is born in hospital, a medical statement may be provided with the date and time of birth and the sex of the baby. If the mother has no way of identifying herself in order to be mentioned on the birth certificate, the responsible officer of the civil registry can refer the case to the Public Prosecution Service and the birth certificate with regard to her details is drawn up by order and in accordance with their instructions (Article 1:19b, BW (Civil Code)). The father is mentioned on the birth certificate if he has legally acknowledged the child. In this case the following documents are necessary in case the father is not Dutch: 1. Legalised birth certificate 2. Legalised statement of non-marriage or a copy of the marriage certificate 3. Identity document The sexual and/or gender identity of the parents does not affect whether the birth of the child can be registered.	Article 1:19e (6), BW (Civil Code): https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0002656/2020-01-01#Boek1_Titeldeel4_Afdeling4_Artikel19e (NL) Government of the Netherlands website, Declaration of birth: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/aangifte-geboorte-en-naamskeuze-kind/vraag-en-antwoord/aangifte-geboorte (NL) Ilegaalkind.nl website, Who should make a birth declaration?: http://www.ilegaalkind.nl/?id=197&mainId=36 (NL) LOS Foundation, Undocumented support point – having children: http://www.stichtinglos.nl/content/kinderen-krijgen (NL)
PRS.6.b		Are all children issued with birth certificates upon registration? If no, please describe legal status of documentation issued.	HRC, Resolution A/HRC/RES/20/4 (2012) : Underscores the importance of effective birth registration and provision of documentary proof of birth irrespective of immigration status and that of parents or family members. Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC : Take all necessary measures to ensure that all children are immediately registered at birth and issued birth certificates, irrespective of their migration status or that of their parents. General Comment No 7 (2005) CRC : States parties should take all necessary measures to ensure that all children are registered at birth. This can be achieved through a universal, well-managed registration system that is accessible to all and free of charge. An effective system must be flexible and responsive to the circumstances of families.	Yes. The child may either receive an official copy of the certificate, or an international extract. (The copy is an official copy of the certificate stamped by the municipality. The copy states the same as on the original certificate itself. An international extract is a current summary of the certificate with an explanation in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Turkish and Serbo-Croat.)	See the governmental website on the practice of birth registration: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/aangifte-geboorte-en-naamskeuze-kind/vraag-en-antwoord/aangifte-geboorte See for example the practice of obtaining a birth certificate in the Amsterdam Municipality: https://www.amsterdam.nl/veelgevraagd/?productid=%7BFCCA0186-543A-4EB2-89EA-59EB5A6929FB%7D
PRS.6.c		Is the child's nationality determined or recorded upon birth registration? If yes, please describe how and by whom (e.g. if the mother/father's nationality is recorded and/or automatically attributed to the child, if there's a formal procedure, if information on both parents is recorded etc.)	CRC : Articles 3 & 7	No. A birth certificate contains the following information: - first and last names - date of birth - place of birth - sex - who the parents are The place of birth of the parents and their date of birth is also recorded.	See the governmental website on the practice of birth registration: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/aangifte-geboorte-en-naamskeuze-kind/vraag-en-antwoord/aangifte-geboorte

PRS.6.d		<p>If a child's nationality is not determined or recorded upon birth registration, is there a legal framework to determine the child's nationality later? If yes, please describe the procedure, including the legal grounds, deadlines, competent authority, and whether the child's best interests are taken into consideration.</p>	<p>CRC: Articles 3 & 7 1961 Convention: Articles 1 & 4 UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012): States need to determine whether a child would otherwise be stateless as soon as possible so as not to prolong a child's status of undetermined nationality. Such a period should not exceed five years. HRC, CCPR General comment No. 17 (1989): States are required to adopt every appropriate measure, both internally and in cooperation with other States, to ensure that every child has a nationality when he is born. UNHCR, Best Interests Procedure Guidelines (2021) HRC, D.Z. v. Netherlands (2021)</p>	<p>The child's nationality is determined during the formal registration in the Dutch Population Register (Basis Registratie Personen, BRP) in case of legal residence. BRP registration is based on identity documents issued by a competent authority evidencing someone's nationality (Article 2.15 Law BRP); or a statement from the Minister of Security and Justice at the Dutch Immigration office (IND) (Article 2.17 Law BRP). There are also other circumstances in which statelessness can be registered without documents, for example when nationality law states that the mother cannot confer this on the child.</p> <p>There are no safeguards in place to ensure that a child does not remain with undetermined nationality for a period over five years.</p> <p>In a ground-breaking decision on 28 December 2020, the Human Rights Committee found that the Netherlands violated a child's rights by registering "nationality unknown" in his civil records as this left him unable to be registered as stateless under Dutch law and therefore be given international protection as a stateless child. The Committee requested the Netherlands to review its decisions on the application to be registered as stateless in the civil registry, and on his application to be recognised as a Dutch national. Additionally, the Netherlands is under the obligation to take all necessary steps to avoid similar violations in the future, including by reviewing its legislation in accordance with its obligation under Article 2 of the Covenant to ensure that a procedure for determining statelessness status is established, as well as reviewing its legislation on eligibility to apply for nationality, in order to ensure this is in compliance with Article 24 of the ICCPR. Following the reply by the Netherlands, the Committee said that the compensation which had been provided by the Netherlands to the complaint's author was inadequate, and criticised it for not reviewing the author's application to be recognised as a national of the Netherlands. The Committee further stated that the Netherlands did not review the living circumstances of the author, and did not implement measures to review legislation on determining statelessness and eligibility for nationality applications.</p>	<p>Wet Basisregistratie personen (BRP) (Law on the Population Register) https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0033715/2019-02-03# (NL)</p> <p>Handleiding Uitvoeringsprocedures, September 2019, p. 133: https://www.rvig.nl/documenten/publicaties/2019/09/05/hup-versie-3.2a</p> <p>OHCHR 'The Netherlands violated child's right to acquire a nationality, UN Committee finds', 29 December 2020: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26631&LangID=E</p> <p>Human Rights Committee Adopts Report on Follow-up to Views, March 2022, https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2022/03/human-rights-committee-adopts-report-follow-views</p>
PRS.6.e		<p>Are there credible reports to suggest that, in practice, children are prevented from registering their birth (or their birth certificate issued abroad is not recognised) because of parents' migration or residence status, sexual and/or gender identity, because they were born as a result of a surrogacy agreement, or other reasons (please specify)?</p>	<p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC: Urge States parties to take all necessary measures to ensure that all children are immediately registered at birth and issued birth certificates, irrespective of their migration status or that of their parents. Legal and practical obstacles to birth registration should be removed. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: States will contribute resources and expertise to strengthen the capacity of national civil registries to facilitate timely access by refugees and stateless persons to civil and birth registration. Global Compact on Refugees: States commit to fulfil the right of all individuals to a legal identity and ensure that migrants are issued documentation and civil registry documents. European Parliament Resolution (2018): Calls on Member States to take immediate corrective measures to stop discriminatory birth registration.</p>	<p>In practice it can be more difficult to register the birth of a child when both parents do not have legal residence status and lack official identity documents (for example, someone else who was present at the birth with identity documents needs to be prepared and able to register the birth in time). In addition, parents without legal residence status can be scared to register the birth of their child because of a fear of detention (despite there not being a reporting requirement) or parents lack the knowledge of the Dutch law and practice regarding registering their child.</p> <p>No official reports are known where children were prevented from registering due to a refusal from the applicable municipality.</p> <p>In the case of victims of human trafficking, unlike in the case of asylum seekers, birth registration does not take place when the child is born <i>en route</i> outside of the Netherlands. In these cases, cooperation has taken place between the lawyer Else Weijsenfeld, Defence for Children, and DLA Piper in which DLA finances DNA tests so that late birth registration can take place.</p>	<p>ASKV Refugee Support and Defence for Children casework/practice.</p>

			<p>European Parliament, Resolution on LGBTIQ rights in the EU (2021): Emphasises the importance of the recognition of birth certificates in all EU Member States regardless of the sex of the parents.</p> <p>UNHCR and UNICEF, Background Note on Sex Discrimination in Birth Registration (2021): All parents regardless of their sex should have equal rights to register the births of their children without discrimination. Laws or regulations that provide that only opposite sex parents may register the birth of children should be reformed.</p> <p>Court of Justice of the European Union, V.M.A. v Bulgaria, Case C-490/20 (2021): Domestic authorities of an EU Member State are required to issue a birth certificate and identity documents to a child who is a national of that state and was born in another EU Member State, including when the birth certificate contains two parents of the same sex.</p>	No reports are known of children being prevented from registering because of their parent's sexual orientation or gender identity, or whether they were born as a result of a surrogacy agreement.	
PRS.6.f	Are there mandatory reporting requirements that would deter undocumented parents from coming forward to register their children (e.g. health or civil registry authorities required to report undocumented migrants)? If not, is there a clear firewall to prohibit the sharing of information by other entities with immigration authorities?	<p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC and Joint General Comment No. 3 (2017) CMW and No. 22 (2017) CRC: Legal and practical obstacles to birth registration should be removed, including by prohibiting data sharing between health providers or civil servants responsible for registration with immigration enforcement authorities; and not requiring parents to produce documentation regarding their migration status. Children's personal data, in particular biometric data, should only be used for child protection purposes.</p> <p>CoE, ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 16(2016): States should clearly prohibit the sharing of information about migrants suspected of irregular presence with immigration authorities. These firewalls must be binding on state authorities and the private sector.</p>	<p>The only evidence that can be found is that the municipality may pass on information on changes in a legally residing person's registration in the BRP (population register) to the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND).</p> <p>Undocumented parents may register the birth of their children in the respective municipality. There is no mandatory reporting requirement at the civil registry or health authorities.</p> <p>Undocumented persons are also able to go to the police to report a criminal offence without repercussions due to their undocumented stay under the "free in, free out" principle. They are also entitled to protective measures, appropriate assistance and possible compensation when they are the victim of a criminal offense.</p> <p>There is no information known of a clear firewall to prohibit the sharing of information by other entities with immigration authorities.</p>	<p>Autorisatiebesluit Minister van Veiligheid en Justitie ten behoeve van de Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst, Rijksdienst voor Identiteitsgegevens: https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/stcrt-2016-8560.html (NL)</p> <p>Gemeente Amsterdam, "Ongedocumenteerden", available at: https://www.amsterdam.nl/zorg-ondersteuning/ondersteuning/vluchtelingen/ongedocumenteerden/</p> <p>Stichting Los, "Overige rechten", available at: https://www.stichtinglos.nl/content/overige-rechten#aangifte_politie</p>	
PRS.6.g	Is there a statutory deadline for birth registration? If yes, please state the deadline and whether late birth registration is possible in law and practice.	<p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC: Measures should also be taken to facilitate late registration of birth and to avoid financial penalties for late registration.</p> <p>HRC, Resolution A/HRC/RES/20/4 (2012): Calls upon States to ensure free birth registration, including free or low-fee late birth registration, for every child.</p> <p>General Comment No 7 (2005) CRC: States should facilitate late registration of birth and ensure that children who have not been registered have equal access to health care, protection, education and other social services.</p>	<p>Yes, within three days after birth. When the birth takes place during a weekend or holiday the term can be extended so that at least two working days remain to register the birth. Late registration is possible by law. The official in the relevant Municipality will inform the Public Prosecutor's office (Openbaar Ministerie (OM)) to inform the parent they are too late with registration. It is possible that the OM will impose a fine. Late registration is possible, but it does present practical barriers. It is a long process requiring proof of where the birth has taken place. A DNA test can also be necessary, which is often expensive and hard to access for undocumented persons.</p>	<p>Article 1:19e, BW (Civil Code): https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0002656/2020-01-01#Boek1_Titeldeel4_Afdeling4_Artikel19e (NL)</p> <p>Government of the Netherlands website, Declaration of birth: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/aangifte-geboorte-en-naamskeuze-kind/vraag-en-antwoord/aangifte-geboorte (NL)</p> <p>Municipality of Amsterdam website, Birth Declaration: https://www.amsterdam.nl/veelgevraagd/?productid=%7BE353AA-5987-4C5B-AB9B-3C3DCF467046%7D#case_%7BF0DE4C68-FFEC-4B66-84DD-4B6DD78C4AFF%7D (NL)</p> <p>Immigration and Naturalisation Service website, Dutch citizen by birth or acknowledgement: https://ind.nl/en/dutch-citizenship/Pages/by-birth-or-acknowledgement.aspx</p> <p>Municipality of Amsterdam website, Birth Declaration:</p>	

					https://www.amsterdam.nl/veelgevraagd/?productid=%7BE353AA-5987-4C5B-AB9B-3C3DCF467046%7D#case_%7BF0DE4C68-FFEC-4B66-84DD-4B6DD78C4AFF%7D (NL)
PRS.6.h		Are there additional requirements for late birth registration (e.g. fees, documents, court procedure)? Please describe the procedure including the competent authority and procedural deadlines.	As above	<p>As per article 19e, under 7, of the Dutch Civil Code, in case of a late birth registration, the civil registrar informs the public prosecutor. A fine may be incurred. The Public Prosecution Service determines the amount of the fine.</p> <p>As is stipulated in article 19e, under 11, the civil servant may ask for a statement from the doctor or the obstetrician who was present when the child was born that the child was born of the person declared as mother. The Municipality of Amsterdam notes on its website that if the child is more than 6 weeks old, a doctor's statement is necessary as supporting evidence.</p> <p>In practice, late birth registrations are usually seen by a judge before the birth is confirmed. This causes delays and costs extra money. Because the burden of proof lies with the individual and they may be in vulnerable circumstances (e.g. victims of human trafficking) it can be difficult to trace where the birth has taken place.</p>	<p>Government of the Netherlands, 'aangifte geboorte doen', available at: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/wetten-en-regelingen/productbeschrijvingen/aangifte-geboorte-doen</p> <p>Dutch Civil Code, Article 19e: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0002656/2021-01-01/#Boek1_Titeldeel4_Afdeling4_Artikel19e</p> <p>Gemeente Amsterdam, 'Geboorteaangifte', available at: https://www.amsterdam.nl/veelgevraagd/?productid=%7BE353AA-5987-4C5B-AB9B-3C3DCF467046%7D#case_%7BF0DE4C68-FFEC-4B66-84DD-4B6DD78C4AFF%7D</p>
PRS.7.a	Reducing <i>in situ</i> statelessness	Does the government have any programmes in place to promote civil registration (including birth registration)? If yes, please provide details.	UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014) : Action 7	There is no information available about any programmes in place to promote civil registration in the Netherlands.	
PRS.7.b		Are there particular sections of the population - such as minority groups or people affected by conflict - believed to be stateless/at risk of statelessness? Please provide details and source of information.	<p>1961 Convention: Article 9</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Action 4</p> <p>HRC, Recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues (2019): States should take legislative, administrative and policy measures aimed at eliminating statelessness affecting minorities.</p>	<p>Part of the Roma population in the Netherlands is believed to be unregistered, as the registration system is inadequate for this community. Families do not (consistently) register in the BRP (in case of a move, birth, or partnership) either because they lack information, or a residency permit, or they may register under a different name. A 2022 report cites as reasons for the lack of registration of children: low literacy, being unaware that reporting is mandatory, parents' lack of documents to confirm their identity, discrimination and exclusion. There can also be distrust of institutions and the lack of involvement of professionals who can report a birth. There have been anecdotal cases of Roma de-registering themselves from the municipality e.g. because they plan to move abroad (and later change plans) or wish to withdraw from contact with the authorities.</p> <p>Most registered stateless persons in the Netherlands are Palestinians and Kurds from Syria, due to the conflict in Syria. Other backgrounds include Moluccans/Indonesian descent (13% of the registered stateless persons in 2010), Suriname, and former Soviet-Union.</p>	<p>Aanpak multi-problematiek bij gezinnen met een Roma-achtergrond (2013), p. 76: https://vng.nl/files/vng/nieuws_attachments/2013/20130315-roma-multiproblematiek.pdf (NL)</p> <p>EenVandaag, Aantal staatlozen in Nederland neemt toe (Number of Stateless Persons in the Netherlands Increasing), October 2017: https://eenvandaag.avrotros.nl/item/aantal-staatlozen-in-nederland-neemt-toe/ (NL)</p> <p>UNCHR Statelessness in the Netherlands, 2011, p. 24 http://www.unhcr.org/nl/wp-content/uploads/UNHCR-Staatloosheid-in-Nederland-NLD.pdf (NL)</p> <p>Dutch Government, Staatloosheid (Statelessness): https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/nederlandse-nationaliteit/staatloosheid</p> <p>Verwey-Jonker Institute, 'Bijzonder ingewikkeld om aan papieren te komen', 2022 https://repository.wodc.nl/bitstream/handle/20.500.12832/3207/3250-bijzonder-ingewikkeld-om-aan-papieren-te-komen-volledige-tekst.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y</p>

PRS.7.c		Has the State implemented any other measures specifically aimed at reducing (risk of) statelessness? (e.g. identification, registration or naturalisation campaigns, removal of treaty reservations, reform of discriminatory laws, etc.)	1961 Convention UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014) : Actions 1 & 8 UNHCR, Good Practices Paper - Action 1 (2022) : States generally address and resolve situations of statelessness through law and policy reform enabling stateless persons to acquire nationality automatically by operation of law, through a simple registration process, or through naturalisation. Non-automatic procedures are generally a less effective way to resolve statelessness because they require the person concerned to take certain steps to acquire nationality.	<p>Yes. On 6 June 2023, the Dutch Parliament passed a legislation package on statelessness that has been pending since 2014. It introduces, among others, a procedure for identifying stateless people, and a pathway to Dutch nationality for stateless children born in the Netherlands but without residence rights (see PRS.2).</p> <p>In 2023, the Netherlands also withdrew its reservations under Articles 8 and 26 of the 1954 Convention (see IOB.1).</p>	
PRS.8.a	Deprivation of nationality	Are there any provisions on deprivation of nationality that could render a person stateless? Please state whether there is a safeguard against statelessness established in law and on what grounds deprivation of nationality may result in statelessness (e.g. national security, fraud, etc.).	1961 Convention : Article 8 & 9 ECN : Article 7(3) UDHR : Article 15(2) Principles on Deprivation of Nationality and the Draft Commentary : Principle 2.2: Deprivation of nationality refers to any loss, withdrawal or denial of nationality that was not voluntarily requested by the individual; Principles 4, 5 & 6 HRC, Report of the Secretary-General on Human Rights and Arbitrary Deprivation of Nationality (2009) : para. 23 UNHCR Guidelines on Statelessness No.5 (2020) : the prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of nationality also includes situations where there is no formal act by a State but where the practice of its competent authorities clearly shows that they have ceased to consider a particular individual/group as national(s) (e.g. where authorities persistently refuse to issue or renew documents without providing an explanation or justification). ILEC Guidelines (2015) : Deprivation of nationality must have a firm legal basis, should not be interpreted extensively or applied by analogy and deprivation-provisions must be predictable.	<p>Provisions for withdrawal of nationality are established in the Dutch Nationality Law (Chapter 5). Only article 14(1) allows for statelessness in case of fraud in the process of obtaining Dutch nationality. Automatic loss of Dutch nationality is never possible when someone only has Dutch nationality as this would result in statelessness. In 2017, the Dutch Government started a campaign to make people with dual nationality aware of the fact they can lose their Dutch nationality automatically.</p>	<p>Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap (Dutch nationality law), Chapter 5: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk5 (NL)</p> <p>Dutch Government, Revocation of Dutch nationality by the authorities: https://www.government.nl/topics/dutch-nationality/loss-of-dutch-nationality/revocation-of-dutch-nationality-by-the-authorities</p> <p>Dutch Government, Losing Dutch nationality: https://www.government.nl/topics/dutch-nationality/loss-of-dutch-nationality</p>
PRS.8.b		Who is the competent authority for deprivation of nationality and what procedural safeguards are in place (e.g. due process, fair trial, participation in the proceedings, legal aid, decision in writing with reasoning, judicial oversight, appeal, time limit, subject to prior sentencing)?	1961 Convention : Article 8(4) ECN : Articles 10 to 13 Principles on Deprivation of Nationality : Principle 7. Deprivation of nationality must be carried out in pursuance of a legitimate purpose, provided for by law, necessary, proportionate and in accordance with procedural safeguards; Principle 8: Everyone has the right to a fair trial or hearing and to an effective remedy and reparation. ILEC Guidelines (2015) : The consequences of a decision to deprive somebody of their nationality must be assessed against the principle of proportionality. Adequate procedural safeguards are essential. Decisions should only take effect when the (judicial) decision cannot be challenged anymore.	<p>The Minister of Justice and Security is the competent authority for ordering deprivation of Dutch nationality. Appeal against the decision to deprive someone of Dutch nationality is possible within 4 weeks. At the latest on the twenty-eighth day after the publication of a decision to withdraw Dutch nationality, the Minister must inform the court. Higher appeal against the decision of the court is possible at the Council of State. The individual has the right to legal aid and a counsellor will be assigned if necessary.</p>	<p>Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap (Dutch nationality law), Chapter 5 & Chapter 7a: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01# (NL)</p>
PRS.8.c		Are provisions on deprivation of nationality applied in practice? Have they been applied even where it results in (risk of) statelessness? If available, please provide any sources		<p>Yes, they are applied in practice.</p> <p>According to available statistical information, 21 people have been deprived of their Dutch nationality on national security grounds as of the end of April 2020. 16 of these people were Dutch-Moroccan</p>	<p>Institute on Statelessness & Inclusion, "Deprivation of nationality as a national security measure", available at: https://files.institutesi.org/Deprivation_of_Nationality_the_Netherlands.pdf</p>

		of data or information on cases that resulted in statelessness.		<p>dual nationals, with the other five holding other dual/multiple nationalities alongside their Dutch nationality.</p> <p>A 2023 news report (NOS) cites 20 cases of deprivation of nationality.</p> <p>In these cases, this has not led to statelessness. This is because the nationality deprivation powers laid down in the Dutch Nationality Act can only be invoked against dual nationals, creating a difference in treatment as compared to citizens who only hold Dutch nationality, leading to indirect discrimination against Dutch nationals from particular minority groups.</p>	<p>Institute on Statelessness & Inclusion, European Network on Statelessness, ASKV Refugee Support, "Joint Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - The Netherlands" 19 July 2021: https://www.askv.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Joint-Submission_Netherlands_-104-CERD.pdf</p> <p>NOS, "The Dutch citizenship has already been revoked from 20 individuals, and the number is still rising." 15 mei 2023, https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/nederland/artikel/5384585/nederlanderschap-ingetrokken-terroristisch-misdrijf-veiligheid (NL)</p>
PRS.8.d		Are there safeguards in law and practice to prevent renunciation or other forms of voluntary loss of nationality from resulting in statelessness?	<p>1961 Convention: Article 7 ECN: Articles 7 and 8</p>	<p>Yes, a renunciation statement has no legal effect if this would render the person stateless. Municipalities, who are responsible for accepting the renunciation statement, oblige the person wishing to renounce Dutch nationality to have another nationality.</p>	<p>Explanation on Article 15 (1)b, Handleiding Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBW33099/2020-10-15# (NL)</p>
PRS.8.e		Are there any provisions on deprivation of nationality in a national security context (regardless of whether they could render a person stateless)? Please describe these provisions and if/how they are applied in practice.	<p>Principles on Deprivation of Nationality Principle 4: States shall not deprive persons of nationality for the purpose of safeguarding national security. Where provisions exist, these should be interpreted narrowly and in accordance with international law standards. UNHCR Guidelines on Statelessness No.5 (2020): Laws that permit deprivation of nationality on the grounds of terrorism should be publicly available and precise enough to enable individuals to understand the scope of impermissible conduct.</p>	<p>Yes. In the interest of national security, the Minister may revoke the Dutch nationality of a person who has reached the age of 16 and who is outside the Kingdom, if it appears from their conduct that they have joined an organisation that is seen by the Minister, and in accordance with the views of the Kingdom's Council of Ministers, as an organisation that is placed on a list of organisations that are involved in a national or international armed conflict and that pose a threat to national security (Article 14(4)). However, the deprivation will not take place if this results in statelessness (Article 14(8)).</p>	<p>Article 14(4) and (8), Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap: https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk5</p>
PRS.8.f		Are there any provisions on deprivation of nationality that directly or indirectly discriminate a person or group of persons on any ground prohibited under international law or that discriminate between nationals? Please describe these provisions and if/how they are applied in practice.	<p>ICCPR: Article 26 1961 Convention: Article 9 ECN: Article 5 Principles on Deprivation of Nationality: Principle 6. Prohibited grounds for discrimination include race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, ethnicity, property, birth or inheritance, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other real or perceived status, characteristic or affiliation. Each State is also bound by the principle of non-discrimination between its nationals.</p>	<p>Yes. Several authors have claimed that Article 14(4) of the Dutch Nationality Act, which allows for deprivation of Dutch nationality of dual nationals, leads to unequal treatment between mono-nationals and dual nationals (in particular Dutch-Moroccan nationals), therefore discriminating on grounds of nationality.</p> <p>On 16 September 2019 the court in The Hague held that the deprivation of Dutch nationality of a Dutch-Moroccan national did not violate the prohibition of discrimination.</p>	<p>Florimond Wassenaar, 'Discriminatie van IS en Al-Nusra-strijders bij intrekking Nederlanderschap in Unierechtelijk perspectief', Crimmigratie & Recht, Aflevering 1, 2018: https://www.bjutijdschriften.nl/tijdschrift/CenR/2018/1/CenR_254_2-9248_2018_002_001_002</p> <p>U.J. d'Oliveira, 'Geen discriminatie als gelijke behandeling verboden is?', Nederlands Juristenblad, 27 november 2015: https://www.njb.nl/blogs/geen-discriminatie-als-gelijke-behandeling-verboden-is/</p> <p>Peter Rodrigues, 20 November 2019: https://www.universiteit leiden.nl/nieuws/2019/11/rodrigues-over-de-terugkeer-van-is-strijders-en-het-intrekken-van-hun-nederlandse-nationaliteit</p> <p>VU Migration Law Clinic, 'The legality of revocation of Dutch nationality of dual nationals involved in terrorist organizations', July 2018: https://migrationlawclinic.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/mlc-nationality-case-final-version.pdf</p> <p>ECLI:NL:RBDHA:2019:9682, 16 September 2019: https://uitspraken.rechtspraak.nl/inziendocument?id=ECLI:NL:RBDHA:2019:9682</p> <p>Institute on Statelessness & Inclusion, "Deprivation of nationality as a national security measure", available at:</p>

					https://files.institutesi.org/Deprivation of Nationality the Netherlands.pdf Institute on Statelessness & Inclusion, European Network on Statelessness, ASKV Refugee Support, " Joint Submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - The Netherlands" 19 July 2021: https://www.askv.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Joint-Submission Netherlands -104-CERD.pdf
PRS.8.g		<p>Are there safeguards to prevent derivative loss of nationality (i.e., loss of nationality on the basis that a parent or a spouse has been deprived of that nationality)? Please describe the potential impact of deprivation on children and spouses.</p>	<p>1961 Convention: Article 6 CRC: Articles 2(2), 7 and 8 CEDAW: Article 9(1) Principles on Deprivation of Nationality: States must take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members (Principle 9.7). The derivative loss of nationality is prohibited (Principle 9.8).</p>	<p>Article 15 and 15A of the Dutch Nationality Act does not include loss of nationality for an adult on the basis that a spouse has been deprived of that nationality.</p> <p>However, Article 16(1)(d) allows for the loss of Dutch nationality of a minor if their father or mother loses Dutch nationality pursuant to Article 15(1)(b), (c) or (d), or Article 15A of the Dutch Nationality Act. The minor does not lose Dutch nationality if 1) if the other parent still possesses Dutch nationality, 2) in case of the death of a parent after the date on which the loss of Dutch nationality would occur, 3) if a Dutch national parent has died before the date on which the loss of Dutch nationality would occur.</p> <p>In addition, under the circumstances in Article 14(6), Dutch nationality is lost by a minor due to the termination of the family relationship from which it is derived (pursuant to Articles 3, 4, 5, 5a, 5b, 5c, or 6(1), opening words and c of the Dutch Nationality Act). The loss of nationality does not occur if the other parent is a Dutch national at the time of the termination of that relationship or was such at the time of their death. The loss also does not take effect if Dutch nationality can be derived from Article 3, (3), or from Article 2(a), of the Act of 12 December 1892 on Dutch nationality and residency.</p> <p>Deprivation of nationality is not possible if this results in statelessness (Article 14(8)), except in cases of fraud according to Article 14(1).</p> <p>There is no absolute safeguard against statelessness for children where the parent's loss of nationality is a result of fraud. However, careful consideration must be made of the individual interests of the child and statelessness could be considered a disproportionate consequence of the parent's action given the impact on the child's right to a nationality.</p>	<p>Article 15 and 15A, Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap (Dutch Nationality Act): https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk5 Artikel15</p> <p>Article 16(1)(d)), Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap (Dutch Nationality Act): https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk5 Artikel16</p> <p>Article 14(6) and (8), Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap (Dutch Nationality Act): https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0003738/2020-04-01#Hoofdstuk5 Artikel14 Explanation of Article 14, first paragraph, RWN, par. 2.4 of the 2003 Dutch Nationality Act: Manual: https://wetten.overheid.nl/jci1.3:c:BW33099&artikel=14&paragraaf=2&paragraaf=2.4&z=2023-02-15&g=2023-02-15</p>

Resources

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
RES.1.a	Published judgments	Please list the most relevant judgments relating to statelessness and include links to the cases (where available).		Please see most relevant judgments relating to statelessness in the Netherlands in the ENS Statelessness Case Law Database.	ENS, Statelessness Case Law Database, https://caselaw.statelessness.eu/caselaw-search?caselaw%5B0%5D=state_party%3A521
RES.2.a	Free legal assistance	Are there specialised lawyers or organisations providing free advice to stateless people or those at risk of statelessness? If yes, please describe.	UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014) : Applicants must have access to legal counsel.	Organisations include: PILP (Public Interest Litigation Project), Vluchtelingen in de Knel, ASKV, Stichting LOS and other support organisations such as Stichting ROS, INLIA, Stichting STIL, Dutch Council for Refugees, etc. Multiple law firms across the Netherlands, for example Hamerslag & van Haren, Prakken d'Oliveira, Fischer Groep, Everaert Advocaten, and others (not always free of charge)	PILP: https://pilpnjcm.nl/en/dossiers/statelessness/ Vluchtelingen in de Knel: http://www.vluchtelingenindeknel.nl/ ASKV Refugee Support: http://www.askv.nl/staatloosheid Hamerslag & van Haren: http://www.hvh-advocaten.nl/ Prakken d'Oliveira: http://www.prakkendoliveira.nl/ Members of the Association of Asylum Lawyers in the Netherlands: https://www.vajn.org/ledenlijst/
RES.3.a	Literature	Is there domestic academic literature on statelessness? Please list and provide references and hyperlinks (where available).		There is a considerable amount of domestic legal academic literature (+50) on statelessness written in the Netherlands, but less academic work on statelessness in the Netherlands.	P.H. Oostendorp "Staatloosheid, onbekende nationaliteit en de GBA", in Trends in het nationaliteitsrecht, ed. Hans Ulrich Jessurun d'Oliveira ('s-Gravenhage: Sdu, 1998), pp. 127-134. Considerable amount of publications by Prof Mr Gerard de Groot on nationality and statelessness available at: https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/r.degroot/research Rodrigues P.R. & Busser A. (2010), Staatloze Roma in Nederland, Asiel & Migrantenrecht : 384-391. Laura van Waas, 2013, Nederland: microkosmos voor de actuele Staatloosheidsproblematiek, A&MR 2013: pp. 256-260 https://pure.uvt.nl/ws/portalfiles/portal/1528340/van_Waas_Asie_I_Migrantenrecht.pdf Rodrigues P.R. (2013), De facto staatloosheid of de uitdaging van onuitzetbaren, Asiel & Migrantenrecht (5-6): 281-286 Katja Swider, 2014, Statelessness Determination in the Netherlands, Amsterdam Centre for European Law and Governance, Working Paper Series 2014 - 04: https://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/attachments/resources/Statelessness%20Determination%20in%20the%20Netherlands%20Katja%20Swider.pdf Sangita Jaghai en Caia Vlieks, Buitenschuldbeleid schiet tekort in bescherming staatlozen, A&MR 2013: 5-6, pp. 287-292 Katja Swider and Caia Vlieks, Discriminatie van staatloze kinderen zonder wettig verblijf, A&MR 2016: 4, pp. 168-174 Karel Hendriks, Jelle Klaas en Marlotte van Dael, Juridische spoken verdwijnen nog niet, Gebrekkig wetsvoorstel vaststellingsprocedure voor staatlozen, A&MR 2017: 2, pp. 75-81

					<p>https://www.askv.nl/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/AsielMigrantenrecht-2017-nr.-2-Jurdische-spoken-verdwijnen-nog-niet.-Gebrekkig-wetsvoorstel-vaststellingsprocedure-voor-staatlozen.pdf</p> <p>Marlotte van Dael, Jelle Klaas en Loïs Vaars, Staatloosheid als moderne vorm van uitsluiting, Naar een duurzame oplossing voor staatlozen in Nederland, Justitiële Verkenningen 2018:2, pp. 99-116 https://www.wodc.nl/binaries/JV1802_Volledige%20tekst_tcm28-327814.pdf#page=100</p> <p>Robin van Oene, Buitenschuldbeleid schiet nog altijd te kort, Asiel en Migratierecht (A&MR 2023:2, pp. 63-70, https://www.askv.nl/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/AMR-2023-nr.-2-Buitenschuldbeleid-schiet-nog-altijd-tekort-R.-van-Oene.pdf</p> <p>Bruno Verdam, Oude wijn in nieuwe zakken bij het staatloze optierecht, Asiel en Migratierecht (A&MR 2023:10), https://www.vluchtweb.nl/system/files/vluchtweb/documents/informatie-vwn/2023%20A%26MR%2010%20web.pdf</p>
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