

Contents

Country context (optional)	2
International and Regional Instruments	3
1954 Convention	3
1961 Convention	3
Other conventions	3
Stateless Population Data	6
Availability and sources	6
Stateless in detention data	7
Statelessness Determination and Status	9
Definition of a stateless person	9
Training	9
Existence of a dedicated SDP	9
Procedures in which statelessness can be identified and other routes to regularisation (Group 2)	10
Access to procedures (Group 2)	10
Assessment (Group 2)	13
Procedural safeguards (Group 2)	14
Protection (Group 2)	15
Temporary protection for people fleeing war (Group 2)	16
Detention	18
Immigration detention	18
Identification of statelessness	19
Procedural safeguards	20
Protections on release	21
Return and readmission agreements	22
Prevention and Reduction	23
Naturalisation	23
Stateless born on territory	24
Foundlings	27
Adoption	27
Ius sanguinis	28
Birth registration	28
Reduction of statelessness	32
Deprivation of nationality	33
Resources	37
Published judgments	37
Free legal assistance	37
Literature	37
Examples of identity and travel documents	37

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).

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	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-3&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en
IOB.1.b		If yes, when was ratification/accession?		Ratification: 19/11/1956.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-3&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en
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 reservations.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=V-3&chapter=5&Temp=mtdsg2&clang=en
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. The relationship between national and international law is sector-monistic in certain areas of law, including immigration law, nationality law, criminal law and criminal procedure.	Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 3; Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act) § 3; Straffeloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-05-20-28 (Penal Act) § 2; Straffeprosessloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1981-05-22-25 (Criminal Procedure Act) § 4.
IOB.2.a	1961 Convention	Is your country party to the 1961 Statelessness Convention?	UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961	YES	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=V-4&chapter=5&clang=en
IOB.2.b		If yes, when was ratification/accession?		Accession: 11/08/1971.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=V-4&chapter=5&clang=en
IOB.2.c		Are there reservations in place? Please list them.	As above	No reservations.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=V-4&chapter=5&clang=en
IOB.2.d		Does the Convention have direct effect?	As above	YES. The relationship between national and international law is sector-monistic in certain areas of law, including immigration law, nationality law, criminal law and criminal procedure.	Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 3; Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act) § 3; Straffeloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-05-20-28 (Penal Act) § 2; Straffeprosessloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1981-05-22-25 (Criminal Procedure Act) § 4.
IOB.3.a	Other conventions	State party to European Convention on Nationality 1997? Please list any reservations.	European Convention on Nationality, 1997	YES, ratification 04/06/2009. No explicit reservation, but one interpretative declaration: "Norway declares that the age referred to in Article 22(b) is, as a general rule, considered to have been reached at the expiry of the calendar year in which the person reaches the age of 28 years. If the delay is due to an omission on their part, the age referred to in Article 22(b) is considered to have been reached at the expiry of the calendar year in which the person reaches the age of 33 years."	COE Treaty Office: https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/166
IOB.3.b		State Party to European Convention on Human Rights 1950? Please list any relevant reservations.	European Convention on Human Rights, 1950	YES, ratification 15/01/1952. No reservations.	COE Treaty Office: https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/005/signatures?p_auth=zwRxDMly

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, ratification 12/10/2006.	COE Treaty Office: https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/200/signatures?p_auth=zwRxDMly
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)	Legally binding. No reservations.	Stortinget: https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Saker/Sak/?p=47721 (Parliament) (NO)
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, ratification 8/1/1991. No reservations in place since 19 September 1995.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtmsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en
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, ratification 13/9/1972. Reservations in place: "Subject to reservations to article 10(2)(b) and (3) "with regard to the obligation to keep accused juvenile persons and juvenile offenders segregated from adults" and to article 14(5)&(7) and to article 20(1)." The reservation to article 14(5) was further specified on 19.09.1995.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?chapter=4&clang=en&mtmsg_no=IV-4&src=IND
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, ratification 13/9/1972. Reservations in place: "Subject to reservations to article 8(1)(d) "to the effect that the current Norwegian practice of referring labour conflicts to the State Wages Board (a permanent tripartite arbitral commission in matters of wages) by Act of Parliament for the particular conflict, shall not be considered incompatible with the right to strike, this right being fully recognised in Norway."	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=ind&mtmsg_no=iv-3&chapter=4&clang=en
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, ratification 21/5/1981. No reservations.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=ind&mtmsg_no=iv-8&chapter=4&clang=en
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, ratification 9/7/1986. No reservations.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtmsg_no=IV-9&chapter=4&clang=en
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, ratification 6/8/1970. No reservations.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtmsg_no=IV-2&chapter=4&clang=en
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.	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?chapter=4&lang=en&mtmsg_no=IV-13&src=IND
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, ratification 3/6/2013. Interpretative declarations in regard to articles 12 ("Convention allows for the withdrawal of legal capacity or support in exercising legal capacity, and/or compulsory guardianship, in cases where such measures are necessary, as a last resort and subject to safeguards."), as well as articles 14 and 25 ("Convention allows for compulsory care or treatment of persons, including measures to treat mental illness, when	UNTC: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/showDetails.aspx?objid=080000028017bf87&clang=en

				circumstances render treatment of this kind necessary as a last resort, and the treatment is subject to legal safeguards").	
--	--	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

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 2.0 (2024): Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations.</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>ISI, The World's Stateless (2014): States should strengthen measures to count stateless persons on their territory.</p> <p>Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, nationality laws and statelessness (2023): States and relevant actors should collect rigorous and comparable data on stateless populations, including data disaggregated by sex, gender, age, and disability status, in accordance with the international recommendations on statelessness statistics and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Regulation 763/2008 of the EP and the Council on population and housing censuses, and its implementing Regulation 1201/2009 Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for population and housing censuses in 2010: States should disaggregate census data for stateless people.</p>	<p>YES, in 2025, the number of stateless persons according to Statistics Norway was 1,519. The data is disaggregated by the following categories: naturalised stateless persons, stateless persons born in Norway, stateless immigrants, stateless emigrants, stateless asylum seekers.</p> <p>Pursuant to Norway's recognition of Palestine as a state in May 2024, Palestinians who qualify for a nine-digit Palestinian ID number based on civil registration in the West Bank, Gaza or East Jerusalem, are no longer considered stateless (including for all legal purposes), as specified in a new instruction AI - 3/2024 from the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion. This has been criticised by civil society organisations and Palestinian communities as being contrary to international law and leaving people in limbo.</p>	<p>Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå): https://www.ssb.no/en/statbank/sq/10093488</p> <p>Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå): https://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/statelessness-many-worldwide-few-in-norway</p> <p>The Norwegian Government: https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/norway-recognises-palestine-as-a-state/id3040194/</p> <p>Instruction AI - 3/2024: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-ai-3-2024-avklaring-av-praksis-etter-norges-ankjennelse-av-palestina/id3061301/</p> <p>Context (journalism from the Thomson Reuters Foundation), "After statehood recognition, Palestinians stuck in limbo in Norway" (10 October 2025): https://www.context.news/socioeconomic-inclusion/after-statehood-recognition-palestinians-stuck-in-limbo-in-norway</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	YES, the category of "unknown nationality" has reportedly been used by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration. Statistics Norway also reports on the number of people with 'unknown' nationality living in Norway, although the numbers are relatively low (54 people in 2025).	<p>UNHCR's 2015 Mapping Study: http://www.refworld.org/docid/5653140d4.html, p. 19.</p> <p>Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå): https://www.ssb.no/en/statbank/sq/10093489</p>
POP.1.c		What is UNHCR's estimate for the stateless/at risk of statelessness population or population with undetermined nationality and what is the source for this estimate?	As above	The total number of persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate was 1,615 in 2025, including forcibly displaced . UNHCR compiles statistics on statelessness in Norway from data received from Statistics Norway and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration.	<p>UNHCR Global Trends report, Global Trends Annexes, Annex 4 (linked at the bottom of UNHCR's Global Trend website): https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends.html</p> <p>UNHCR Refugee Data Finder: https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?v2url=cdae09</p> <p>UNHCR, Statelessness in Norway - 9 facts: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106470</p>

POP.1.d		Have there been any surveys or mapping studies to estimate the stateless population in the country?	As above	YES. Statistics Norway has published about the stateless population in the country. In 2015 UNHCR conducted a study on 'Mapping Statelessness in Norway' which revealed challenges with accuracy of data due to different registration methods and applied definitions of a stateless person across Norwegian authorities. It recommended that Norwegian authorities review and enhance their current system for collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data on stateless persons and persons recorded without a nationality in Norway, to ensure consistency in registration and reporting on statistics.	Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå): https://www.ssb.no/en/statbank/sq/10093488 Statistics Norway: https://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/statelessness-many-worldwide-few-in-norway UNHCR's 2015 Mapping Study: http://www.refworld.org/docid/5653140d4.html , pp. 16-25.
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	No	
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	YES. There are three main issues. First, there is no definition of statelessness in the Norwegian domestic legislation, as discussed further below. Second, Norway lacks a dedicated statelessness determination procedure. As noted in UNHCR's 2015 Mapping Study (p. 16): "The institutional capacity to produce statistics related to statelessness is somewhat limited. Also, issues relating to registration processes present challenges." Thirdly, as noted by Statistics Norway, "The number of stateless persons among those living in Norway without a residence permit, such as those without documentation, is unknown." Since Statistics Norway is unable to estimate the number of stateless persons living in Norway without a residence permit, the total stateless population is probably underreported.	UNHCR's 2015 Mapping Study: http://www.refworld.org/docid/5653140d4.html , p. 16 Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå): https://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/statelessness-many-worldwide-few-in-norway
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).	As above. 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.	The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) publishes detailed statistics on the number of asylum applicants as well as persons granted protection every year – both disaggregated by nationality, including the category of those registered as stateless. In 2024, there were 93 applicants for international protection registered as stateless (compared to 92 in 2023, 72 in 2022, 34 in 2021 and 70 in 2020). Out of 152 decisions made in 2024 on asylum claims lodged by people recorded as stateless, 33 were granted refugee protection and 3 collective protection. As noted above, the Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå) provides disaggregated statistics on the stateless population in Norway. Their data shows the naturalisation of 266 stateless persons and four of unspecified nationality in 2015, 281 stateless and nine unspecified in 2016, 605 stateless and 14 unspecified in 2017, 682 stateless and 15 unspecified in 2018, 684 stateless and 16 unspecified in 2019, 545 stateless and four unspecified in 2020, 266 stateless (including unspecified nationality) in 2021, 130 stateless and 1 unspecified in 2022, 168 stateless and 1 unspecified in 2023 and 248 stateless in 2024.	UDI statistics: https://www.udi.no/statistikk-og-analyse/statistikk Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå): "Statelessness: many worldwide, few in Norway" 2017: https://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/statelessness-many-worldwide-few-in-norway Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå) - data for naturalisations of persons previously registered as stateless or "uoppgitt" (unspecified) since 1977: https://www.ssb.no/en/statbank/table/07114/
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.	UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0 (2024) : Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations. CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 (2014) : State parties should gather, analyse and make available sex-disaggregated statistical data and trends.	The Supervisory Board for Forced Returns and the Immigration Detention Centre publishes annual reports ("årsmeldinger"), including in English, that now contain some statistical information. The annual report for 2024 contains the following statistics concerning the Trandum immigration detention centre (p. 17): "As of 1 November, 663 men and 143 women were detained at the immigration detention centre in 2024. According to statistics, 179	The Supervisory Board for Forced Returns and the Immigration Detention Centre (Tilsynsrådet for tvangsreturer og utlendingsinternatet): https://www.sivilrett.no/tilsynsradet/rapporter-og-publikasjoner

			<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>of the detainees have, as of 22 October, been held longer than 14 days. Daily occupancy has been around 25-30 detainees."</p> <p>Regarding detention of children at a separate detention centre at Haraldvangen, the report states the following (p. 15): "In 2024 (by 10 December), eight children have been placed at Haraldvangen. Two of these were placed alone without family. None of these stays lasted longer than one night. This statistic is consistent with previous years, and in practice means that placements at Haraldvangen are only decided by the police without being submitted to the court."</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	No.	

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).	There is no definition of a stateless person in Norwegian domestic legislation, neither in the Nationality Act nor in the Immigration Act. Preparatory works to recent legislative proposals referred to the 1954 Convention definition. Section 16 of the Nationality Act excludes a stateless person from facilitated naturalisation after 3 years of lawful residence (instead of 7 years), “who by his or her own act or omission has chosen to be stateless, or who in a simple way can become a national of another country”. UNHCR has recommended the incorporation of the 1954 Convention definition in national legislation.	Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act); Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act) (NO). Innst. 391 L – 2015–2016: https://www.stortinget.no/globalassets/pdf/innstillinger/stortinget/2015-2016/inns-201516-391.pdf , p. 89, under «Endring i statsborgerloven § 16 som ikke har vært på høring». (NO) See also: NOU 2015: 4: https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/cfd58282be3c43a3b244df40f41e5fb3/no/pdfs/nou201520150004000dddpdfs.pdf , p. 40, under section 5.9.3. (NO) UNHCR, Statelessness in Norway: 9 facts with recommendations from UNHCR , February 2024
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. Human Rights Council Resolution on the right to a nationality (2023) : States should ensure the effective implementation of nationality laws, including through awareness-raising and publicity, and training of public officials, including judges and local leaders, that is gender-responsive and sensitive to race and diversity, informed by meaningful consultation and engagement with stateless leaders and communities and wider civil society.	NO. As far as NOAS is aware, neither the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) nor the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) receive specialised training on statelessness determination.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
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. Human Rights Council Resolution on the right to a nationality (2023) : as above	NO, there is no training for judges. The Center for Continuing Legal Education (Juristenes Utdanningscenter) in cooperation with NOAS organised on 24.01.2017 a one-day seminar for lawyers, where one of the topics discussed was “Statelessness as a separate ground for a residence permit?”. Available courses on asylum and immigration law at Norwegian universities do not touch upon statelessness at all.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
SDS.3.a	Existence of a dedicated SDP	Which of the following best describes the situation in your country? Choose only one and then proceed to question indicated. 1. There is a dedicated statelessness determination procedure (SDP) established in law, administrative guidance, or judicial procedure, leading to a dedicated statelessness status (proceed to Question 4a).	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. 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.	# 2 - There is no dedicated SDP but there are other administrative procedures through which statelessness can be identified and other routes to regularisation.	

		<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 (proceed to Question 11a).</p> <p>3. There is a dedicated statelessness status but no formal procedure for determining this (proceed to Question 17a).</p>			
SDS.11.a	Procedures in which statelessness can be identified and other routes to regularisation (Group 2)	<p>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.)?</p>	<p>ECHR: Article 8. 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.</p>	<p>There are administrative procedures through which statelessness can be identified, including when applying for international protection, travel documents and nationality.</p> <p>UNHCR has recommended that Norway establishes a dedicated statelessness determination procedure with adapted standard and burden of proof, and that persons recognised as stateless be granted a specific residence permit, to allow them to have access to the rights guaranteed by the 1954 Convention.</p>	<p>UNHCR, Statelessness in Norway: 9 facts with recommendations from UNHCR, February 2024</p>
SDS.11.b		<p>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?</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>A foreigner facing practical obstacles preventing return may apply for a residence permit on this ground by requesting the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) to reassess its final rejection of the asylum application. This may be done at the earliest three years after the asylum application was registered and one year after the asylum application was finally rejected by UNE. Certain additional requirements must be met, including clearing any doubt concerning the applicant’s identity and cooperation with the National Police Immigration Service regarding return. Where statelessness is alleged to constitute the main reason for the impossibility of return, it is necessary for UNE to determine whether the person is stateless. In NOAS’ experience, such decisions are rare and often incompatible with UNHCR guidelines. A residence permit granted on the ground of impossibility of return falls under the category of permits granted on humanitarian grounds.</p>	<p>Utlendingsforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2009-10-15-1286 (Immigration Regulations), § 8-7, (NO).</p>
SDS.12.a	Access to procedures (Group 2)	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Statelessness is neither consistently registered nor assessed during the asylum procedure. For the purposes of assessing an asylum application, it is the “home country” of the applicant that is of central importance to the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE), not nationality status. If asylum is granted, but doubt about the applicant’s identity persists, the duration of the granted residence permit may be limited (thus requiring more frequent applications for renewal of the permit). Statelessness may thus be determined in some cases by UDI or UNE as part of an identity assessment. However, as noted in UNHCR’s 2015 Mapping Study (p.32), “The practice of registering a person as a national of the country of former habitual residence if he or she cannot prove his or her statelessness poses problems under the 1954 Convention” [i.e. the standard of proof to establish statelessness is too high]. If no protection need is evident and the asylum application is rejected, the identity of the applicant, including her nationality status, will be, as a rule, left unassessed</p>	<p>Utlendingsforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2009-10-15-1286 (Immigration Regulations), § 10-13. (NO)</p> <p>UNHCR’s 2015 Mapping Study: http://www.refworld.org/docid/5653140d4.html, p. 32.</p> <p>Utlendingsforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2009-10-15-1286 (Immigration Regulations), § 8-7.</p> <p>Utlendingsforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2009-10-15-1286 (Immigration Regulations), § 12-1. (NO)</p> <p>Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51, (Nationality Act) § 16. (NO)</p>

				<p>both by UDI and UNE. In case one does not comply with a negative decision, it will be up to the National Police Immigration Service to determine the identity of the individual and the country to which the individual is to be returned to. This would involve an examination of ID-documents, communication with relevant embassies, interrogation of the person and her family members (if present in Norway), detention where necessary combined with extraction and analysis of data from the person’s smartphone and other belongings as well as monitoring of the persons’ further communication with the outside world.</p> <p>A foreigner facing practical obstacles preventing return may apply for a residence permit on this ground by requesting UNE to reassess its final rejection of the asylum application (the so-called no-fault procedure). This may be done at the earliest three years after the asylum application was registered and one year after the asylum application was finally rejected by UNE. Certain additional requirements must be met, including clearing any doubt concerning the applicant’s identity and cooperation with the National Police Immigration Service regarding her return. Where statelessness is alleged to constitute the main reason for the impossibility of return, it is necessary for UNE to determine whether the person is stateless. In NOAS’ experience, such decisions are rare and often incompatible with UNHCR’s guidelines.</p> <p>The residence permit pursuant to Immigration Regulations § 8-7 (practical obstacles preventing return) has been granted in circa 10 cases since 2008, as confirmed by the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) in communications to NOAS in 2019. As of June 2025, the more accurate estimate based on NOAS’ casework is 10-15 cases.</p> <p>There are no statistics available on the number of residence permits granted pursuant to Immigration Act § 38 (humanitarian grounds) for the reasons of practical obstacles preventing return, where the residence permit was NOT based on Immigration Regulations § 8-7 (hence the waiting periods and other requirements set out in Immigration Regulations § 8-7 do not apply). Some examples where such a permit was granted are known from UNE’s practice, but their number is unknown. An internal memo dated 29.05.2018 produced by UNE in connection to a court case mentions a single example concerning a Palestinian family permanently expelled from the United Arab Emirates, which used to be their home country. It is legally possible that a number of such permits have also been granted in the first instance by the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) but whether this has actually happened or in how many cases is unknown.</p> <p>When applying for travel documents (for refugees or for foreigners with another residence permit), there must not be doubt about the applicant’s identity. In such cases statelessness may sometimes be determined by UDI or UNE as part of an identity assessment.</p> <p>When applying for nationality, relaxed requirements apply for stateless persons (inter alia three years’ lawful residence instead of seven). According to a recent government instruction G-08/2016 to UDI, separate rules apply for persons born stateless in Norway (lawful residence is not required, only three years of continuous residence). In cases where the applicant claims to be</p>	<p>Instruks G-08/2016: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-om-tolkning-av-statsborgerloven---gjeldende-rett-for-statslose-sokere-som-er-fodt-i-norge/id2518182/?utm_source=www.regjeringen.no&utm_medium=epost&utm_campaign=Rundskriv-28.10.2016 (NO)</p> <p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS): https://www.noas.no/unhcr-om-statslose/ (NO)</p>
--	--	--	--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

				<p>stateless, it may thus be necessary for UDI or UNE to determine the applicant’s statelessness in order to determine whether the relaxed requirements apply.</p> <p>Applications for asylum, travel documents and nationality are assessed by separate units within the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) as well as within the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE). There is no centralised system for the examination of statelessness separate from these procedures. If the applicant is stateless, his or her statelessness is sometimes – but not always and not in a consistent manner – determined as part of the application process for asylum, travel document or nationality.</p>	
SDS.12.b	Does the State identify and record indications of statelessness during border screenings? If so, is the individual referred to an appropriate procedure to examine/identify their statelessness? Is it necessary to apply for asylum for statelessness to be identified and/or determined?	<p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): Efficient referral mechanisms should be established and officials who may be in contact with stateless persons trained to identify and refer potential applicants.</p> <p>EU Screening Regulation and EU Asylum Procedure Regulation: EU Member States must identify indications of statelessness during screening processes, pending the determination of whether the individual is stateless.</p> <p>EUAA Practical Guide on Nationality (2025): The interplay between the asylum procedure and the statelessness determination procedure should be organised to avoid delays. Indications of statelessness should be recorded following screening and where an applicant claims to be stateless, this should be registered pending determination. Statelessness status should be adequately reflected in the asylum application and recorded in relevant decisions, databases and documentation. Applicants for international protection should not be expected to go through an SDP where that determination is carried out by an authority other than the determining authority. Where the applicant has already been formally declared stateless, statelessness status should be considered established unless new elements arise.</p>	<p>Other than Section 32(5) of the Immigration Act, there are no other specific provisions in the Act regulating border procedures. Introduced in 2016, this provision opens for immediate rejection by police officers of asylum-seekers at Norway’s borders with Nordic neighbouring countries “in a crisis situation with an extraordinarily high number of arriving asylum seekers.” Application of this provision requires prior activation by the King in Council (i.e., by the government, as opposed to a single minister). The preparatory works explicitly state that, if activated, Norway will cease to abide by the Dublin III Regulation as a response to a collapse of the Dublin system in case other states stop registering a large number of asylum-seekers transiting through their territory. The provision has never been activated. There is nothing to indicate that statelessness would have any legal relevance in such cases.</p> <p>According to ministerial instruction GI-13/2015 and updated guidelines UDI 2015-013, asylum applications submitted by persons arriving at the Storskog border crossing with Russia who fall under the first country of asylum provision (Section 32(1)(a) of the Immigration Act) or the safe third country provision (Section 32(1)(d)), are to be assessed at the border. Statelessness may be of relevance in these cases insofar it affects the risk of chain-refoulement.</p> <p>The no-fault procedure for persons unable to return to their country of origin is only accessible via an asylum procedure. Hence, a person who is unable to return to the country of origin due to statelessness must apply for asylum even though the person lacks any fear of persecution. In practice, the no-fault procedure only becomes accessible once the asylum application is rejected in the final instance by the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE), as specified in the Immigration Regulations Section 8-7. The Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM) has recently proposed an adjustment of practice for earlier identification of statelessness.</p>	<p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 32(5).</p> <p>Prop. 90 L (2015–2016), Endringer i utlendingsloven mv. (innstramninger II), 05.04.2016, p. 34: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-90-l-20152016/id2481758/ (NO).</p> <p>Ministerial Instruction GI-13/2015: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/gi-132015--rask-saksbehandling-for-asylosokere-som-har-hatt-opphold-i-rusland-if-utlendingsloven--32-og-90/id2468570/?q=gi-13/2015 (NO).</p> <p>Guidelines UDI 2015-013: https://www.udiregelverk.no/rettskilder/udi-retningslinjer/udi-2015-013/ (NO).</p> <p>Utlendingsforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2009-10-15-1286, (Immigration Regulations), § 8-7 (NO)</p> <p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS): https://www.noas.no/unhcr-om-statslose/ (NO).</p> <p>The Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM), Input on guidelines on obstacles to return to the home country due to statelessness in cases pursuant to Section 38 of the Immigration Act, 30.01.2025: https://www.nhri.no/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Innspill-til-retningslinjer-om-returhindringer-til-hjemlandet-pa-CC%8A-grunn-av-statsloshet-i-saker-etter-utlendingsloven-%C2%A7-38.pdf (NO).</p>	
SDS.12.c	Is statelessness identified in asylum procedures, as well as the applicant’s country(ies) of former habitual residence? Is there any guidance for officials relating to identification and/or determination of statelessness within asylum procedures?	<p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): Efficient referral mechanisms should be established and officials who may be in contact with stateless persons trained to identify and refer potential applicants.</p> <p>EASO/EUAA, Practical guide on registration (2021): The country or countries of former habitual residence should be recorded in applications for international protection to facilitate follow-up and referral to a dedicated statelessness determination procedure. Statelessness determination should be carried out only by a competent decision-making</p>	<p>Statelessness may be identified in asylum procedures when identifying applicant’s identity and country of origin or in the assessment of the risk of refoulement. However, the practice is inconsistent and there are no publicly available guidelines for statelessness determination.</p> <p>The Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM) has recommended that guidelines be drafted to facilitate early identification, within the existing asylum procedure, of obstacles for return due to statelessness.</p>	<p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.</p> <p>The Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM), Input on guidelines on obstacles to return to the home country due to statelessness in cases pursuant to Section 38 of the Immigration Act, 30.01.2025: https://www.nhri.no/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Innspill-til-retningslinjer-om-returhindringer-til-hjemlandet-pa-CC%8A-grunn-av-statsloshet-i-saker-etter-utlendingsloven-%C2%A7-38.pdf (NO).</p>	

			authority at an appropriate point in time following the final assessment of an asylum claim. EUAA, Practical Guide on Nationality (2025) : As above.		
SDS.12.d		Are there obligations in law on authorities to consider a claim of statelessness?	UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020) : Access to the procedure must be guaranteed. 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. 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.	NO. However, once statelessness is identified in the asylum procedure, it will normally stand when applying for nationality, unless there is new information indicating that the applicant has submitted false information about her identity.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
SDS.12.e		Are there clear, accessible instructions for stateless people on how to claim their rights under the 1954 Convention and/or be identified as stateless?	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.	NO.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
SDS.12.f		Is there cooperation between agencies that may have contact with stateless people?	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.	There is not much cooperation when it comes to determination of statelessness as such. There is nevertheless cooperation between several agencies when it comes to general identity assessment in individual cases. UNHCR has recommended that proactive identification procedures with efficient referral mechanisms between authorities are put in place.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers. UNHCR, Statelessness in Norway: 9 facts with recommendations from UNHCR , February 2024
SDS.13.a	Assessment (Group 2)	Who has the burden of proof when determining or identifying statelessness (in law and practice)?	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.	The burden of proof is shared. Applicants for a residence permit, including asylum, are under a general obligation to “document” their identity (asylum is nevertheless granted where the need for protection is established even if identity is not documented or even if the applicant’s identity is in doubt, but the obligation to “document” identity will continue to apply). Administrative agencies, including immigration authorities, are under a general obligation “to ensure that the case is clarified as thoroughly as possible before an administrative decision is made.”	Utlendingsforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2009-10-15-1286 , (Immigration Regulations), § 10-2 (NO) Forvaltningsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1967-02-10 (Public Administration Act), § 37.
SDS.13.b		What is the standard of proof to evidence statelessness, in law and in practice?	UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014) : States are advised to adopt the same standard of proof as in refugee status determination (“reasonable degree”). 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	The standard of proof is “preponderance of evidence” (“ <i>sannsynlighetsovervekt</i> ”), which is higher than in asylum applications, where an applicant only has to establish “to a reasonable degree” (“ <i>noenlunde sannsynlig</i> ”) that they are a refugee, provided their claims appear generally credible.	UNHCR’s 2015 Mapping Study: http://www.refworld.org/docid/5653140d4.html , p. 32.

			<p>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>		
SDS.13.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>NO. Neither the Directorate of Immigration (UDI) nor the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) have guidelines on statelessness determination. The Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM) has recommended that guidelines be drafted to facilitate early identification, within the existing asylum procedure, of obstacles for return due to statelessness.</p> <p>Pursuant to Norway's recognition of Palestine as a state in May 2024, Palestinians who qualify for a nine-digit Palestinian ID number based on civil registration in the West Bank, Gaza or East Jerusalem, are no longer considered stateless (including for all legal purposes), as specified in a new instruction AI - 3/2024 from the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion. This has been criticised by civil society organisations and Palestinian communities as being contrary to international law and leaving people in limbo. The Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre (Landinfo) publishes relevant COI reports. The latest positive example of a COI regarding citizenship laws and practices published by Landinfo is a detailed report on so called "al-Tash cases", concerning people born to Iranian parents in an Iraqi refugee camp al-Tash, who face difficulties with citizenship confirmation and documentation.</p>	<p>The Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM), Input on guidelines on obstacles to return to the home country due to statelessness in cases pursuant to Section 38 of the Immigration Act, 30.01.2025: https://www.nhri.no/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Innspill-til-retningslinjer-om-returhindringer-til-hjemlandet-pa%CC%8A-grunn-av-statsloshet-i-saker-etter-utlendingsloven-%C2%A7-38.pdf (NO).</p> <p>Instruction AI - 3/2024: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-ai-3-2024-avklaring-av-praksis-etter-norges-akerkjennelse-av-palestina/id3061301/</p> <p>Context (journalism from the Thomson Reuters Foundation), "After statehood recognition, Palestinians stuck in limbo in Norway" (10 October 2025): https://www.context.news/socioeconomic-inclusion/after-statehood-recognition-palestinians-stuck-in-limbo-in-norway</p> <p>Landinfo "Stadfestelse og dokumentasjon av statsborgerskap – spesielt for al-Tash-flyktninger" (Confirmation and documentation of citizenship – specifically for al-Tash refugees), 08.02.2024: https://landinfo.no/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Iran-temanotat-Stadfestelse-og-dokumentasjon-av-statsborgerskap-spesielt-for-al-Tash-flyktninger-0802024.pdf (NO; a short summary in English on page 4).</p>
SDS.14.a	Procedural safeguards (Group 2)	<p>Is free legal aid available to stateless people generally?</p>	<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>	<p>NO. Asylum seekers who get their asylum application rejected in the first instance, by the Directorate of Immigration (UDI), normally have the right to free legal assistance to appeal the decision to the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE). This does not apply in asylum cases that UDI refuses to assess on the merits with reference to the so called "safe third country" provision. As described above, determination of statelessness is at best peripheral to determination of a protection need by Norwegian immigration authorities.</p> <p>There is no right to free legal assistance when applying for travel documents or nationality, irrespective of whether statelessness determination is a necessary part of the assessment.</p> <p>A foreigner claiming to be unable to return can apply for a residence permit on this ground by requesting UNE to reassess its final rejection of the asylum application. As noted above, this may be done at the earliest three years after the asylum application was registered and one year after the application was finally rejected by UNE. There is no right to free legal assistance in such cases, irrespective of whether statelessness determination is part of the assessment. Assessment of the possibility of return is not subject to a two-instance process. According to current practice, the only administrative authority that considers whether a foreigner is to be granted a residence permit on the grounds of impossibility of return is UNE. The Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM) has recently proposed an adjustment of practice for earlier identification of statelessness.</p>	<p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act), § 92; Rundskriv om fri rettshjelp: https://fri-rettshjelp.no/rundskriv/ (Circular on Free Legal Aid) (NO).</p> <p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS): https://www.noas.no/unhcr-om-statslose/ (NO).</p> <p>The Norwegian Human Rights Institution (NIM), Input on guidelines on obstacles to return to the home country due to statelessness in cases pursuant to Section 38 of the Immigration Act, 30.01.2025: https://www.nhri.no/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Innspill-til-retningslinjer-om-returhindringer-til-hjemlandet-pa%CC%8A-grunn-av-statsloshet-i-saker-etter-utlendingsloven-%C2%A7-38.pdf (NO).</p>

SDS.14.b		Is free interpreting available to stateless people?	UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014) : The right to assistance with interpretation/translation [is] essential. ENS (2013) : Assistance should be available for translation and interpretation.	An interpreter is provided free of charge only in the asylum procedure. No free interpreter is provided for the purposes of applying for travel documents or nationality, irrespective of whether statelessness determination is a necessary part of the procedure in an individual case.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
SDS.14.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.)?	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.	An interview is always offered when first applying for asylum. However, as stressed above, in an asylum procedure statelessness determination is peripheral at best. There is no right to an individual interview when applying for travel documents or nationality, irrespective of whether statelessness determination is a necessary part of the procedure in an individual case. As noted above, a foreigner claiming to be unable to return can apply for a residence permit on this ground by requesting the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) to reassess its final rejection of the asylum application. According to the Immigration Act, if a case raises “material questions of doubt” (vesentlige tvilsspørsmål), it is to be assessed in a board meeting, consisting of a board chair and two board members (as opposed to assessment by a single board chair). Only 9% of all asylum cases considered by UNE were assessed in a board meeting in 2017. When a case is assessed in a board meeting, the right to appear in person “shall as a general rule be granted in asylum cases.” Decisions are given in writing with reasons. However, the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) shall not give specific reasons in its reply when a request for reassessment of the final rejection of an asylum application “will manifestly not succeed.” This does not apply “if there are special grounds for giving specific reasons.”	Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 78 Utlendingsforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2009-10-15-1286 (Immigration Regulations), § 16-9 (NO) Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 78
SDS.15.a	Protection (Group 2)	Are there any rights granted to stateless people on the basis of their statelessness? If yes, please provide details.	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.	NO. As interpreted and applied by the Norwegian authorities, the 1954 Convention is practically meaningless with respect to stateless persons who do not have a residence permit on a separate ground (e.g. refugee status, humanitarian grounds or family reunification). In other words, neither juridical status nor any rights follow automatically from the sole fact of determining statelessness in an individual case. Stateless persons with a residence permit on a separate ground benefit from relaxed rules when applying for Norwegian nationality, provided that statelessness is determined in the naturalisation procedure.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers. Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 , (Nationality Act) § 16 (NO).
SDS.15.b		Are stateless people otherwise able to access their rights under the 1954 Convention? Please state whether stateless people can access the below rights and whether access is subject to any conditions: - right to reside - travel document and identity document - work - healthcare - social security - education - housing - family reunification - right to vote - consular protection abroad.	1954 Convention 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. 1967 European Convention on Consular Functions : Article 46.	As interpreted and applied by the Norwegian authorities, the 1954 Convention is practically meaningless with respect to stateless persons who do not have a residence permit on a separate ground (e.g. refugee status, humanitarian grounds or family reunification). In other words, neither juridical status nor any rights follow automatically from the sole fact of determining statelessness in an individual case. Stateless persons under Norway's jurisdiction who do not have a residence permit are not issued an identity document - in contravention to Article 27 of the 1954 Convention. All asylum seekers, including stateless persons, with a pending asylum case receive an asylum seeker card (asylsøkerbevis), but this is not an identity document. It is only meant to evidence the fact that the person has applied for asylum in Norway. All asylum seekers also get automatically assigned a D-number, which facilitates access to basic services. Persons with a D-number may create a MinID,	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers. The Norwegian Tax Administration (Skatteetaten): https://www.skatteetaten.no/en/person/national-registry/identitetsnummer/d-nummer/ MinID: https://minid.no/en/what-is-an-electronic-identity/

		<p>If provided, please add a copy of an anonymised travel and/or identity document to question RES.4.a. (last page).</p>	<p>International Law Commission’s 2006 Draft Articles on Diplomatic Protection: Article 8(1). CERD, General comment No. 37 on racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health (2024): Everyone has the right to public health, medical care, social security and social services, regardless of migration status or statelessness.</p>	<p>which is a personal electronic ID that provides access to public services. The D-number is automatically deactivated when the asylum application is rejected (except on appeal with suspensive effect).</p> <p>Persons with a residence permit, including recognised refugees and stateless refugees, are issued a Schengen-standardised residence card - but this is not an identity document. Recognised refugees are normally also issued a travel document for refugees and a newly introduced national ID-card for foreigners - these are both treated as identity documents. However, when an aspect of identity of a recognised refugee is in doubt (including aspects such as name or date of birth but also many others, including previous residence history), no identity document will be issued. The Supreme Court of Norway has identified this as "a serious and unsolved problem" to be addressed by the government. Unfortunately, a legislative amendment that has introduced a new residence card for foreigners has failed to address the issue - despite important input from the Tax Administration (Skattedirektoratet) among others.</p> <p>Stateless persons with a residence permit on a separate ground benefit from relaxed rules when applying for Norwegian nationality, provided that statelessness is determined in the naturalisation procedure. Since 2024, this no longer applies to Palestinians as the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has instructed that they should not be considered stateless since Palestine was recognised as a State by Norway (see SDS.13.c. and the criticism mentioned there).</p> <p>Stateless people with a residence permit also have full access to healthcare and the right to vote in local elections. People without a resident permit only have access to emergency healthcare and are not able to vote.</p>	<p>The Supreme Court of Norway, HR-2017-2078-A, 31.10.2017, para. 118: https://www.domstol.no/globalassets/upload/hret/avgjorelser/2017/avgjorelser-oktober-2017/saknr-2017-670-anonymisert.pdf (NO).</p> <p>Consultation response from the Norwegian Tax Administration, 03.06.2022: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/horing-utenlandske-statsborgeres-rett-til-nasjonalt-id-kort/id2902738/?uid=d909fbd8-90a8-4ca4-97d7-68591d910cdb (NO).</p> <p>Pass- og ID-kortforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2020-10-09-2012 (Passport and ID Regulations) § 2A-1 (NO).</p> <p>Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51, (Nationality Act) § 16 (NO).</p>
<p>SDS.16.a</p>	<p>Temporary protection for people fleeing war (Group 2)</p>	<p>Does the State guarantee access to the territory to everyone fleeing Ukraine, regardless of nationality, documentation, or residence status? Please describe any barriers for stateless people, people with undetermined nationality, or undocumented people in accessing the territory.</p>	<p>EU Temporary Protection Directive (2001) EU Council Implementing Decision 2022/382 EU Council Implementing Decision 2024/1836 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.</p>	<p>Asylum seekers may enter Norway, however, access is uncertain for persons attempting to cross the Storskog border crossing with Russia who do not have visa (or benefit from visa-free access).</p>	<p>The Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS), Seeking Asylum in Norway: Access to Territory, Safe Third Country and Non-Penalisation, 2022: https://www.unhcr.org/neu/82697-new-report-analyzes-norways-asylum-law-and-access-to-territory.html</p>
<p>SDS.16.b</p>		<p>Does the State offer a temporary form of protection to stateless people, people with undetermined nationality, or undocumented people from Ukraine (through the extended EU Temporary Protection Directive or another mechanism)? Is temporary protection accessible to all stateless people who have fled Ukraine, regardless of their documentation status? If the State grants temporary protection more broadly than required by the EU TPD, or to people fleeing from another country other than Ukraine, please state so.</p>	<p>EU Temporary Protection Directive (2001) EU Council Implementing Decision 2022/382 EU Council Implementing Decision 2024/1836 European Commission, Operational guidelines ENS, Briefings on access to protection for stateless people fleeing Ukraine: 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. European countries and the European Commission should be vigilant and take action to address any segregation, discrimination, and</p>	<p>Norway is not bound by the EU Temporary Protection Directive. Norway's Immigration Act, Section 34, nevertheless provides for the possibility to grant collective protection in certain circumstances. In response to the refugee situation arising due to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, a new provision was introduced in the Immigration Regulations, Section 7-5a, which further regulates temporary protection for persons specifically fleeing from Ukraine. Further details regarding the application of the last-mentioned provision are contained in the guidelines UDI 2022-004, issued by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI). Temporary collective protection is restricted to those stateless persons who "have been granted international protection or an equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022". There is no guidance on whether people who have been granted statelessness status in Ukraine are considered to receive</p>	<p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/lov/2008-05-15-35/§34 (Immigration Act), § 34, (NO).</p> <p>Utlendingsforskriften: https://lovdata.no/forskrift/2009-10-15-1286/§7-5a (Immigration Regulations), § 7-5a, (NO).</p> <p>UDI 2022-004 Midlertidig kollektiv beskyttelse til personer fordrevet fra Ukraina: https://www.udiregelverk.no/rettskilder/udi-retningslinjer/udi-2022-004/ (guidelines by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration regarding temporary collective protection for persons displaced from Ukraine)</p> <p>Marek Linha, Seeking Asylum in Norway: Access to Territory, Safe Third Country and Non-Penalization, 2022: pp.21-25: https://www.unhcr.org/neu/wp-</p>

		Please describe any other barriers for stateless people, people with undetermined nationality, or undocumented people in receiving temporary protection, asylum, or other protection.	antigypsyism, and ensure equal access to rights and protection for all those fleeing Ukraine.	'equivalent national protection'. Apart from this, stateless persons will also qualify for temporary collective protection if they have a family member present in Norway who qualifies for collective international protection.	content/uploads/sites/15/2022/06/NOAS_Seeking-Asylum-in-Norway_MATERIE_25.01.pdf
SDS.16.c		Are there longer-term solutions providing adequate protection for stateless people and/or others who were receiving temporary protection? If so, please describe such protection (is it equal to the protection received under the EU TPD; will people be able to apply for asylum; are there any other (dedicated) residence permits available, etc.). [Section complete, proceed to DET]	ENS, Briefings on access to protection for stateless people fleeing Ukraine : The EU and European countries should ensure that longer-term solutions, including after the expiry of the EU TPD, are found and designed, including to provide adequate protection for stateless people and people with undetermined nationality. ECRE, Transitioning out of the Temporary Protection Directive (2024) : Exit strategies from the TPD regime should ensure that no one, including stateless persons, is left behind after the expiry of temporary protection.	No permanent solutions are proposed as of June 2025.	

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>Immigration detention powers are provided for in law.</p> <p>Alternatives to detention are set out in § 105 of the Immigration Act, which contains two options: an obligation to report and an obligation to stay in a specific place. Both alternatives may be combined with seizure of travel documents, tickets or other material items which may serve to clarify or prove identity.</p> <p>In 2018, the Parliament requested the Government propose further alternatives to detention specifically for families with children and, separately, unaccompanied minors. It also requested the Government examine the possibility of electronic tagging as an alternative to detention for immigration purposes. As of November 2021, there has been little progress on this (aside from a Ministry of Justice proposal that was heavily criticised) and no parliamentary bill has been submitted.</p> <p>There is no requirement to actually “exhaust” alternatives to detention. Alternatives must only be considered as part of the necessity and proportionality assessment.</p>	<p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) §§ 99, 105, 106.</p> <p>Grunnloven: https://grunnloven.lovdata.no/ (Constitution) § 94 (NO).</p> <p>Stortinget: https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Vedtak/Vedtak/Sak/?p=68711 vedtak 539, 540, 541 (NO).</p> <p>Global Detention Project, Harm Reduction in Immigration Detention: A Comparative Study of Detention Centres in France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, October 2018, available at: https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Harm-Reduction-in-Immigration-Detention-GDP-Norwegian-Red-Cross.pdf</p> <p>Norges Røde Kors, Røde kors’ møter med internerte migranter i Norge fra 2010-2020, available at: https://www.rodekors.no/contentassets/3c1c55b1352b46ada0ee714e80871042/rapport-rode-kors-moter-med-internerte-migranter-2010---2020.pdf</p> <p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS), Frihet først: En rapport om alternativer til internering, 2015, available at: https://www.noas.no/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ATI.pdf.</p> <p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS), Analysis of Norway’s international obligations, domestic law and practice, 2014, available at: https://www.noas.no/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Detention-of-asylum-seekers_web.pdf</p>
DET.1.b		<p>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>	<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). 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. EU Return Directive: Any detention shall only be maintained as long as removal arrangements are in progress and executed with due diligence.</p>	<p>NO. There is no such requirement in law. Detention for the purposes of establishing identity of a foreigner (whether with a view to removal or preventing an unauthorised entry) is explicitly listed as one of the grounds that may justify detention.</p>	<p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 106</p>

DET.1.c		Is there a clear obligation on authorities to release a person when there is no reasonable prospect of removal? Please briefly 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), Mikolenko v. Estonia (2009), Mardonshoyev v. Russia (2019), Gashkov and Satirov v. Russia (2022)</p>	YES. This obligation follows from the principle of necessity of detention required under § 94 of the Constitution as well as § 106(3) of the Immigration Act, which allows detention with a view to deportation if measures are actually taken with a view to deportation.	<p>Grunnloven: https://grunnloven.lovdato.no/ (Constitution) § 94 (NO)</p> <p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 106(3) (NO)</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>	Provided that statelessness actually constitutes an obstacle to removal in an individual case, it will be relevant if the individual is detained with a view to removal. This presupposes that the police or the legal representative of the detained stateless person becomes aware/convicted that the person is unreturnable because of her statelessness. The primary focus is nevertheless on the possibility of return, not statelessness (see DET.1.c). The argument may be made at a court hearing, as immigration detention is subject to periodic judicial oversight (every 4 weeks in case of adults).	<p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.</p> <p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 106 b.</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.	<p>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.</p>	<p>NO. Relevant vulnerabilities may be taken into account as part of the general proportionality analysis. The law does not provide a list of relevant vulnerabilities. Statelessness is unlikely to be considered as a relevant vulnerability in relation to proportionality assessment.</p> <p>However, statelessness may be relevant when assessing the necessity of detention in connection to the assessment of reasonable prospects of deportation (if statelessness poses an actual obstacle to removal).</p>	<p>Grunnloven: https://grunnloven.lovdato.no/ (Constitution) § 94 (NO).</p> <p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 99.</p>
DET.2.c		Are individual vulnerability assessments carried out before a decision to detain (or soon after)?	<p>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.</p> <p>EU Return Directive: Article 16(3)</p> <p>EU Return Handbook (2017): Attention should be paid to the specific situation of stateless persons.</p> <p>Council of the European Union, Guidelines to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by LGBTI persons (2013): European entities</p>	Potential vulnerabilities must be taken into consideration as part of the proportionality assessment. This assessment is carried out by the legal section in the National Police Immigration Service and is also subject to judicial oversight. However, the National Police Immigration Service do not have any general guidelines on vulnerability assessment. In 2019, the National Police Immigration Service published professional guidelines for the police regarding children in asylum cases, covering several topics, including arrival, identification, arrest, detention, and deportation.	<p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (information from the leadership of the National Police Immigration Service at a meeting on 09.12.2016).</p> <p>The National Police Immigration Service (Politiets utlendingsenhet), Barnefaglig veileder for politiet i asylsaker (Professional guidelines for the police regarding children in asylum cases), 2019: https://www.nhri.no/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Barnefaglig-veileder-for-politiet-i-asylsaker-2019.pdf (NO)</p>

			<p>should assess the situation of LGBTI persons in detention.</p> <p>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.</p>		
DET.2.d		Are stateless people detained in practice?	As above.	YES. Available statistics as well as anecdotal evidence suggest that persons registered as stateless are often successfully forcefully removed from Norway, including to their country or place of previous habitual residence where they have a valid residence permit, for example stateless Palestinians from Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt or the West Bank. Statistics from the National Police Immigration Service for 2024 show that 45 stateless persons were forcefully removed from Norway (34 of those to third countries, including pursuant to the Dublin III Regulation).	The National Police Immigration Service (Politiets utlendingsenhet): https://www.politiet.no/om-politiet/tall-og-fakta/uttransporteringer/
DET.3.a	Procedural safeguards	Are there adequate procedural safeguards in place for individuals in 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>ICCPR: Article 9(4)</p> <p>ECHR: Article 5(4)</p> <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</p>	<p>The maximum time limits correspond exactly to the limits prescribed by the EU Returns Directive, which is binding for Norway. Hence the exceptional, maximum time limit for detention is 18 months. This limit does not apply to national security cases and cases where the foreign national has been expelled on account of a criminal conviction. With respect to the former, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security has argued that the EU Returns Directive is not applicable in “serious” national security cases, referring to Article 72 TFEU. With respect to the latter cases concerning expulsion on account of a criminal conviction, application of the EU Returns Directive is excludable pursuant to Article 2(2)(b) of the Directive. In a 2018 expulsion case brought before the ECtHR against Norway, <i>Jamal v Norway</i>, the Strasbourg Court ruled that the applicant’s extraordinarily long detention with a view to expulsion – two years and almost seven months – was not in breach of the ECHR, declaring the case inadmissible.</p> <p>The law requires that reasons for arrest be provided in writing by the police. The police must then as soon as possible and at the latest within 72 hours after arrest request a court for permission to detain. A legal representative is automatically appointed to represent the foreigner. A verdict allowing detention is issued by the court in writing. The verdict must refer to the relevant legal provision as well as material grounds justifying detention. The verdict must also state that detention in the given case is not disproportionate.</p> <p>There is a periodic judicial review every 4 weeks (this applies in cases concerning adults; for children it is more frequent). When it becomes evident that forced return is impossible, the detainee is released. As to “reasonable timeframe”, see the reference to maximum allowed time limits above.</p> <p>The police must as soon as possible and latest within 72 hours after arrest request a court for permission to detain (48 hours in cases concerning children, irrespective of whether they are accompanied or not). A lawyer is then automatically appointed to represent the foreigner in an oral hearing before the court. If the permission is granted, there is an automatic, periodic judicial review of detention every 4 weeks (in cases concerning children it’s every 3 days), which also involves an oral hearing. In principle,</p>	<p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 106a, 106b.</p> <p>Prop. 138 L (2010–2011): https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/83e2be9d23984bcc8b7d81b3669e47f1/no/pdfs/prp201020110138000dddpdfs.pdf, p. 52 (NO)</p> <p>European Court of Human Rights, <i>Jamal v. Norway</i>: http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-182468</p>

			<p>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>ECtHR, Mardonshoyev v. Russia (2019): The length of the detention should not exceed that reasonably required for the purpose pursued.</p>	<p>the court’s decision may be reversed at any time. Release must be effectuated as soon as the police or the court find that reasons for detention have lapsed.</p> <p>A lawyer is automatically provided when the court examines the legality of detention, and there are no barriers to accessing this in practice. However, the actual benefit of free legal representation by an appointed lawyer is questionable. In practice, the legal representative will normally not spend much time studying the case. The representative meets a detainee in person 30 minutes before the hearing, although a court may grant more time upon request when this is needed. The representative may also be unfamiliar with the specific immigration or statelessness related issues relevant to the case.</p>	<p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) § 92.</p> <p>NOAS 2014 detention report: http://www.noas.no/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Detention-of-asylum-seekers_web.pdf, p. 81.</p>
DET.3.b		Are stateless and/or undocumented detainees exempt from any obligations which they may be unable to fulfil due to their statelessness (i.e. providing proof of identity or nationality)?	<p>1954 Convention: Article 6.</p> <p>UNHCR, Detention Guidelines (2012): The inability to produce documentation should not automatically be interpreted as an unwillingness to cooperate.</p> <p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines to Protect Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention (2012): The inability of a stateless person to cooperate with removal proceedings should not be treated as non-cooperation.</p>	NO.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
DET.3.c		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>	YES. Detainees are provided with information on their rights upon arrival to the detention centre, along with contact information for NOAS and other relevant organisations.	Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2008-05-15-35 (Immigration Act) §§ 106 a, 106 b.
DET.3.d		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>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>	NO.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
DET.4.a	Protections on release	Are people released from detention issued with identification documents (including confirmation of their statelessness status) and protected from re-detention?	<p>1954 Convention: Article 27</p> <p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Being undocumented cannot be used as a general justification for detention.</p> <p>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.</p>	NO.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.

			<p>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.</p> <p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Released stateless detainees should be provided with appropriate documentation and stay rights suitable to their situation.</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 (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.</p> <p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Released stateless detainees should be provided with appropriate documentation and stay rights suitable to their situation.</p>	<p>No status is automatically provided upon release, as the impossibility of forced return does not necessarily imply impossibility of voluntary return. In some cases, forced return may become possible at a later time, leading to repeated detention. Every person who has requested asylum, irrespective of the outcome of their claim, is provided with accommodation at asylum reception centres (irrespective of whether they previously were detained or not), basic means of subsistence and access to emergency health care until they leave the country. In rare occasions when we are approached by persons who have not applied for asylum and who claim they have a protection need, we advise them to apply for asylum.</p>	<p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.</p>
DET.5.a	Return and readmission agreements	<p>Is statelessness considered a juridically relevant fact in any bilateral readmission and/or return agreements? Please also describe whether the child’s right to a nationality, best interests, right to family life, and their enjoyment of other fundamental rights in the country of return, are taken into consideration before a decision to return a child is made.</p>	<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 (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>CJEU, SN and NL (2024): Competent national authorities must give particular attention to the specific basic needs of stateless people in vulnerable situations, especially minors, for whom the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration. This includes ensuring family integrity, promoting the minor’s welfare and social development, and safeguarding their safety and security.</p>	<p>Statelessness is not considered a juridically relevant fact in readmission/return agreements. The child’s right to a nationality, best interests, right to family life and their enjoyment of other fundamental rights in the country of return may be taken into consideration but are not necessarily decisive as such.</p>	<p>For example: Readmission agreement with Russia: https://lovdata.no/TRAKTATEN/traktat/2007-06-08-10 Readmission agreement with Ukraine: https://lovdata.no/dokument/TRAKTATEN/traktat/2008-02-13-2</p>
DET.5.b		<p>Are you aware of cases of stateless people being returned under such agreements?</p>		<p>YES, for example stateless Palestinian refugees from Syria with and without a residence permit in Russia returned to Russia in 2015 pursuant to a bilateral readmission agreement between Norway and Russia. In 2018, NOAS registered and intervened in a case of a stateless Palestinian refugee from Syria accepted by Ukraine, pursuant to a bilateral readmission agreement between Norway and Ukraine, despite him not having a residence permit in Ukraine.</p>	<p>Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.</p>

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>Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, nationality laws and statelessness (2023): States should lower legal and practical hurdles to citizenship and establish pathways for naturalisation that are equally accessible to women and men, including by removing gender-discriminatory provisions in documentation and other administrative requirements.</p>	<p>Foreign nationals have a legal right (i.e. not subject to administrative discretion) to acquire Norwegian nationality after eight years of continuous, legal residence (with a qualifying residence permit) in Norway, subject to additional requirements, including passing a language test and a social studies test (or a citizenship test). A legislative amendment in force since October 2022 reduced the general language requirement from level B1 (Citizenship Act § 8) to A2 for stateless people (Citizenship Regulations Section 4-1). The application fee is 6 500 NOK for adults and there is no fee for children. The residence requirement is reduced to seven years for persons who were granted international protection (and are not stateless).</p> <p>Under the Nationality Act (Sections 7 and 16), stateless persons not born in Norway may acquire Norwegian nationality already after three years of continuous residence with a qualifying residence permit. The Nationality Act requires that certain additional requirements be fulfilled before Norwegian nationality may be granted, including the requirements for permanent residence that are listed separately in the Immigration Act (Section 62). Unfortunately, a legislative amendment of the Immigration Act (second paragraph of Section 62) has created a legal uncertainty by extending the previous three years' residence requirement for permanent residence to five years for persons with temporary permits based on international protection or stay on humanitarian grounds. At present, it seems unclear whether the legislative amendment applies to applicants for nationality who are stateless and reside in Norway with these temporary permits. A recent decision from the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) of early 2023 concluded that only three years of residence are required for such stateless applicants to qualify for Norwegian nationality, but this decision is not publicised in UNE's case database ("praksisbasen") and alone it does not establish a binding legal precedent. UNHCR has recommended Norway to undertake a review of how this amendment may affect stateless persons' ability to acquire Norwegian nationality to ensure continued access to nationality after three years legal residence.</p> <p>Pursuant to Norway's recognition of Palestine as a state in May 2024, Palestinians who qualify for a nine-digit Palestinian ID number based on civil registration in the West Bank, Gaza or East Jerusalem, are no longer considered stateless, as specified in a new instruction AI - 3/2024 from the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion. This impacts their ability to access facilitated naturalisation, and has been criticised by civil society organisations, legal experts, and Palestinian communities as being contrary to international law and leaving people in limbo.</p> <p>A stateless person born in Norway may acquire Norwegian nationality after three years of continuous residence, even if the person (and/or the parents) has resided in Norway with no residence permit. In other words, previous legal residence is not required. No additional requirements are imposed in such cases,</p>	<p>Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51, (Nationality Act) § 7 & 16 (NO).</p> <p>Utlendingsloven: https://lovdata.no/lov/2008-05-15-35/62 (Immigration Act) § 62 (NO)</p> <p>Statsborgerforskriften: https://lovdata.no/forskrift/2006-06-30-756/4-1 (Citizenship Regulations) § 4-1 (NO)</p> <p>Instruks G-08/2016: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-om-tolkning-av-statsborgerloven----gjeldende-rett-for-statslose-sokere-som-er-fodt-i-norge/id2518182/?utm_source=www.regjeringen.no&utm_medium=epost&utm_campaign=Rundskriv-28.10.2016 (NO)</p> <p>UNHCR, Statelessness in Norway: 9 facts with recommendations from UNHCR, February 2024</p> <p>Instruction AI - 3/2024: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-ai-3-2024-avklaring-av-praksis-etter-norges-akerkjennelse-av-palestina/id3061301/</p> <p>Context (journalism from the Thomson Reuters Foundation), "After statehood recognition, Palestinians stuck in limbo in Norway" (10 October 2025): https://www.context.news/socioeconomic-inclusion/after-statehood-recognition-palestinians-stuck-in-limbo-in-norway</p>

				but an additional waiting period may be imposed if the person has been convicted of a criminal offence.	
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.	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.	YES. A person who has been sentenced to a penalty or a special criminal sanction is not entitled to Norwegian nationality until a certain period of time (waiting period) prescribed by regulations made by the King has lapsed. The duration of the waiting period shall depend on the sanction imposed. Nationality Regulations include a table in § 5-1, according to which the waiting period is to be calculated. The shortest waiting period of 2.5 years is imposed in case of a prison sentence of 10 to 15 days. The longest waiting period of 39 years is imposed in case of a prison sentence of 21 years. According to § 5-2 in the Nationality Regulations, in the case of juvenile punishment, community punishment and in the case of a fine imposed by a fine or sentence, the waiting period is calculated according to the table in § 5-1 on the basis of the subsidiary prison sentence. In other words, a traffic offence, for example, may lead to a waiting period of 2.5 years or more even if the person is not actually sent to jail.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 , (Nationality Act) § 9 (NO); Statsborgerforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2006-06-30-756?q=statsborgerforskriften (Nationality Regulations) Chapter 5 (NO)
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. Are there any direct or indirect barriers to naturalisation caused by discriminatory laws, policies, or practices?	1954 Convention : Article 32 UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020) : It is recommended that States Parties facilitate, as far as possible, the naturalisation of stateless persons. 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. 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. Human Rights Council Resolution on the right to a nationality (2023) : States should adopt and implement nationality legislation with a view to preventing and reducing statelessness. States should refrain from enacting or maintaining discriminatory nationality legislations, policies and practices with a view to avoiding statelessness, and eliminating discrimination against all women and girls in the acquisition of nationality.	Application for nationality is free of charge for children (under 18) and subject to a fee of NOK 3,700 (360 EUR) for adults. Among other requirements, an applicant must further satisfy requirements for permanent residence (unless the applicant is already a permanent resident), including the requirement of self-sufficiency. The self-sufficiency requirement currently demands a gross income of NOK 325,400 (about 28,900 EUR) in the past 12 months prior to application and no receipt of financial support under the Social Services Act during the same period. The self-sufficiency requirement does not apply to children, persons older than 67, students in primary or secondary school, full time students who pursued higher education in the past 12 months, persons unable to work due to a disabling condition and persons who have left their partner because of mistreatment. There does not appear to be discrimination against minorities or marginalised groups in nationality laws, rules, procedures, policies, and practices.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 , (Nationality Act) § 7 & 16 (NO). Statsborgerforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2006-06-30-756?q=statsborgerforskriften (Nationality Regulations) Chapter 5 (NO)
PRS.2.a	Stateless born on territory	Is there a provision in law for stateless children born on the territory to acquire nationality, regardless of sex, gender, or residence status of their parents? [If yes, continue to PRS2b. If no, proceed to PRS2i]	1961 Convention : Article 1 CRC : Article 7 ECN : Article 2 Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) UNCRC : States should strengthen measures to grant nationality to children born in their territory in situations where they would otherwise be stateless. Human Rights Committee, 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. UN Human Rights Council Resolution on the right to a nationality (2023) : States should facilitate the	YES. There is no separate provision in the Nationality Act to grant nationality to stateless persons born on the territory specifically. However, there is a general naturalisation provision, titled "main rule" (§7), which allows for naturalisation subject to application, provided that certain requirements are met. Then there is a separate provision (§16), containing exceptions from the main rule, applicable to stateless persons, irrespective of whether they were born on the territory. According to §3 of the Nationality Act, the Act is "subject to the limitations that follow from agreements with other states and all other international law". To ensure that the Nationality Act is applied in line with the 1961 Convention, the Government issued on 28.10.2016 an instruction, G-08/2016, which is binding for the Directorate of Immigration (UDI), spelling out additional exemptions applicable specifically to persons born stateless under the Norwegian jurisdiction. The instruction covers	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), §§ 3, 7, 16 (NO). Instruks G-08/2016: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-om-tolkning-av-statsborgerloven---gjeldende-rett-for-statslose-sokere-som-er-fodt-i-norge/id2518182/?utm_source=www.regjeringen.no&utm_medium=epost&utm_campaign=Rundskriv-28.10.2016 (NO) UNHCR, Statelessness in Norway: 9 facts with recommendations from UNHCR , February 2024

			<p>acquisition of nationality by children born on their territories or to their nationals abroad who would otherwise be stateless.</p> <p>Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, nationality laws and statelessness (2023): States should implement the CEDAW and uphold their obligations under the CRC, to ensure the child’s right to acquire their parents’ nationality without discrimination on the basis of sex or residency status, and review and reform nationality laws and practices relating to nationality that discriminate on any prohibited grounds, including on the basis of sex or gender.</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> <p>European Parliament resolution (2019): States should find a solution to the issue of stateless children within and outside the EU. The European Commission should promote the child’s right to acquire a nationality.</p> <p>Human Rights Committee, D.Z. v. Netherlands (2021): States must adopt every appropriate measure to ensure that every child has a nationality when they are born.</p> <p>UNCRC, MKAH v. Switzerland (2021): Article 7 CRC requires States to take positive action to implement the right to acquire a nationality.</p>	<p>persons born stateless in Norway irrespective of whether they currently are under or over 18 years old.</p> <p>UNHCR has recommended that authorities raise awareness about the exemptions under this instruction, and that children born stateless in Norway be allowed to acquire nationality automatically.</p>	
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>	Non-automatic, i.e. it is subject to application.		
PRS.2.c	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>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>	NO.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers	

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.	NO.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), §§ 3, 7, 16 (NO). Instruks G-08/2016: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-om-tolkning-av-statsborgerloven----gjeldende-rett-for-statslose-sokere-som-er-fodt-i-norge/id2518182/?utm_source=www.regjeringen.no&utm_medium=epost&utm_campaign=Rundskriv-28.10.2016 (NO)
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. Human Rights Committee, D.Z. v. Netherlands (2021) : The burden of proof must be shared between the claimant and the authorities of the contracting State to obtain evidence and to establish the facts as to whether an individual would otherwise be stateless.	NO.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), §§ 3, 7, 16. Instruks G-08/2016: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-om-tolkning-av-statsborgerloven----gjeldende-rett-for-statslose-sokere-som-er-fodt-i-norge/id2518182/?utm_source=www.regjeringen.no&utm_medium=epost&utm_campaign=Rundskriv-28.10.2016 (NO)
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 lawful 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)	According to government instruction G-08/2016, issued 28.10.2016, which is binding for the Directorate of Immigration (UDI), lawful residence is not a requirement for persons born stateless under the Norwegian jurisdiction to acquire Norwegian nationality. Factual, continuous residence of three years is sufficient in these cases (usually a birth certificate plus absence of evidence to the contrary is sufficient proof). No residence period is required in cases where a parent of the applicant satisfies the requirements for permanent residence or where the parent is an EU national residing in Norway pursuant to EU rules on free movement.	Instruks G-08/2016: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-om-tolkning-av-statsborgerloven----gjeldende-rett-for-statslose-sokere-som-er-fodt-i-norge/id2518182/?utm_source=www.regjeringen.no&utm_medium=epost&utm_campaign=Rundskriv-28.10.2016 (NO) Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
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 (see above).	
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	No age limit. Applications for Norwegian citizenship are free of charge for all children (both stateless and not stateless) irrespective of the place of their birth (in or outside Norway).	

			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.		
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. UNHCR, Best Interests Procedure Guidelines (2021) : The best interests principle applies to all children within the territory of the State, irrespective of their status.	NO.	
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. Automatic, rebuttable presumption.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 4 (NO).
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.	The provision (§4 of the Nationality Act) applies generally to foundlings, without specifying any explicit age limit. The preparatory works to the provision state that the provision is to apply "even if there are indications that the child does not have Norwegian parents". As further specified in the preparatory works, Norwegian nationality will be granted "until the correct origin of the child becomes known".	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 4 (NO). Ot.prp.nr.41 (2004–2005): https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/8611c2d8c4644b49937cf26157edfbc4/no/pdfs/otp200420050041000dddpdfs.pdf , p. 217 (NO).
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.	YES. The preparatory works to the provision (§4 of the Nationality Act) explicitly state that "The child's Norwegian nationality also expires if it is later known that the child is stateless." The child will be able to apply for naturalisation pursuant to special rules for stateless persons (§16 of the Nationality Act and the instruction G-08/2016 mentioned above).	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 4 (NO). Ot.prp.nr.41 (2004–2005): https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/8611c2d8c4644b49937cf26157edfbc4/no/pdfs/otp200420050041000dddpdfs.pdf , p. 217 (NO).
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?	1961 Convention : Article 5 European Convention on the Adoption of Children (2008) : Article 12 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.	NO.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), chapter V (NO).
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.	ECN : Article 6(4)(d) European Convention on the Adoption of Children (2008) : Article 12 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.	YES, a foreign child adopted by a Norwegian parent acquires Norwegian nationality. If it is later revealed that a positive adoption decision was wrongfully decided, the adopted child keeps her Norwegian nationality if she would otherwise be stateless.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), §§ 5, 6 (NO).

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?	<p>1961 Convention: Article 4</p> <p>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.</p>	YES, a child born to a national acquires nationality by descent, irrespective of where the child is born.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 4 (NO).
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.)?	<p>ECtHR, Genovese v. Malta (2011): The State must ensure that the right to nationality is secured without discrimination.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>UNHCR, Background Note on Gender Equality, Nationality Laws and Statelessness (2024): Nationality laws which do not grant women equality with men in conferring nationality to their children are a cause of statelessness.</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0 (2024): Actions 3 and 4.</p> <p>Human Rights Council Resolution on the right to a nationality (2023): States should eliminate discrimination against all women and girls in the conferral of nationality on their children.</p>	NO.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 4 (NO).
PRS.6.a	Birth registration	Does the law provide that all children are registered immediately upon birth regardless of ethnicity, disability, illness, the migration or residence status, sexual and/or gender identity of their parents, or other characteristics?	<p>CRC: Article 7.</p> <p>ICCPR: Article 24(2).</p> <p>ECHR: Article 8.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012): Article 7 CRC applies irrespective of the nationality, statelessness or residence status of the parents.</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0 (2024): Action 7.</p> <p>UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.9</p> <p>UNCRC, General comment No. 15 (2013): Universal free birth registration is a prerequisite for barriers to children's access to health services, including financial, institutional and cultural barriers, to be identified and eliminated.</p> <p>Joint general recommendation No. 31 CEDAW and No. 18 UNCRC (2019): A national system of compulsory, accessible and free birth registration should be established in order to effectively prevent harmful practices, including child marriage.</p> <p>European Parliament, Resolution on LGBTIQ rights in the EU (2021): Calls on States to overcome discrimination against rainbow persons and families.</p> <p>UNHCR, Best Interests Procedure Guidelines (2021): The best interests procedures involve the referral of children to multisectoral services, based on the</p>	Migration or residence status, sexual and/or gender identity of the parents are irrelevant as to the legal obligation to register births under Section 1 of the Children Act.	Barnelova: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1981-04-08-7 (the Children Act), § 1 (NO).

			<p>specific needs of the child and their family, including birth registration.</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>Human Rights Council Resolution on the right to a nationality (2023): States should remove physical, administrative, procedural and any other barriers that impede access to birth registration, establish or strengthen existing institutions responsible for birth registration, and remove barriers due to discrimination, including for internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers.</p> <p>Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, nationality laws and statelessness (2023): States should uphold the equal right to register births and access birth certificates and other civil documents, without discrimination, including on the basis of sex, gender or marital status. States should pass comprehensive legislation on civil registration and vital statistics.</p> <p>Human Rights Committee, Rexha and Fasliu v. Albania (2025): States must prioritise adequate policies for birth registration, especially for children from marginalised communities.</p>		
<p>PRS.6.b</p>		<p>Are all children issued with birth certificates upon registration, regardless of ethnicity, disability, illness, their or family members' residence status/documentation, or parents' sexual or gender identity? If no, please describe legal status of documentation issued.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) UNCRC: 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.</p> <p>UNCRC, General Comment No. 7 (2005): 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.</p> <p>Human Rights Council Resolution on the right to a nationality (2023)</p> <p>Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, nationality laws and statelessness (2023)</p> <p>ECtHR, G.T.B. v. Spain (2023): States have a positive obligation to assist the child in obtaining a birth certificate and identity documents.</p>	<p>NO. Since 3 May 2019, Norway no longer issues birth certificates automatically to all children born in Norway. Birth certificates have been replaced by "a confirmation of registered Norwegian national identity number and name", which is automatically sent to the parents' Tax Administration online account, known as "Altinn". A person without a residence permit in Norway will not get an Altinn account.</p> <p>Parents can nevertheless order (free of charge) a proper birth certificate, including in English, via the website of the Norwegian Tax Administration (see the first link in the right-hand column). To do this, an electronic ID is required. Several electronic ID types are supported, including MinID. Registration and activation of MinID requires prior ordering of a PIN-code (see the second link in the right-hand column). This in turn requires a Norwegian ID-number or an active D-number. All asylum seekers get a D-number, but it may be deactivated upon expiration of an asylum-seeker card. Hence, children born in Norway to parents whose asylum applications have been rejected in the final instance may be prevented from getting a birth certificate and thus exposed to the risk of statelessness. Persons who are unable to order a birth certificate electronically must contact the Tax Administration by phone to request a birth certificate for their child. It is not possible to order a birth certificate from the Tax Administration by email. The National Registry at the Tax Administration will then send the requested birth certificate to the parents' registered address, assuming they have an address registered by the National Registry and reside there. If not, they must first request the Tax Administration, which is responsible for the National Registry, to</p>	<p>Norwegian Tax Administration (Skatteetaten) is responsible for the National Registry (Folkeregister), which issues birth certificates upon request. A birth certificate can be ordered via the following website, assuming the parent has an electronic ID: https://www.skatteetaten.no/en/person/national-registry/certificates-and-information/order-certificates/overview-of-certificates/birth-certificate/</p> <p>Registration and activation of MinID requires prior ordering of a PIN-code as described here: https://eid.difi.no/en/minid/how-register-minid-app</p> <p>If none of the parents are able to activate an electronic ID, it is necessary to contact the Tax Administration/ National Registry by phone. The contact information is available here: https://www.skatteetaten.no/en/contact/</p> <p>See also: folkeregisterforskriften https://lovdata.no/forskrift/2017-07-14-1201/§10-7-4 (Population Registry Regulation), § 10-7-4 (NO).</p>

				register their current address. It is not possible to collect the birth certificate in person directly at the Tax Administration's office.	
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	<p>YES, the nationality of the mother, father and the child is recorded by the doctor or the midwife when the child is born in a birth notification form (<i>fødselsmelding</i>), which is then submitted to the National Registry (<i>Folkeregister</i>).</p> <p>The National Registry registers every child born in Norway as soon as it checks that the submitted information is in accordance with the Act of Population Registration (<i>folkeregisterloven</i>) and the Population Registration regulations (<i>folkeregisterforskriften</i>). The National Registry's Handbook on population registration provides instructions on registering nationality in different types of cases. In cases where a child is born to non-Nordic parents who do not have the same nationality, the Handbook instructs (p.75, section 8.10.4) that the child be automatically registered with the same nationality as the mother, unless a different nationality of the child is highlighted in the birth notification. According to the Handbook (p. 76, <i>ibid.</i>), if it is subsequently documented that the child has the same nationality as the father or that the child is stateless, the National Registry must correct the record. Furthermore, according to the Handbook (p. 76, section 8.10.5) If a person claims to be stateless, the person must be referred to the immigration authority. The same applies in cases where there is doubt about the correct identity (p. 75, section 8.10.3).</p> <p>In some cases, people have been registered with the nationality code "990 unknown/unspecified" (<i>statsborgerskapskoden 990 ukjent/uoppgitt</i>). This applies to a group of people who left Norway between 1960 and 1975 but also other cases that are not specified in the Handbook (p. 76, section 8.10.6). Persons belonging to the former group must be registered as Norwegian nationals upon individual request subject to a specific procedure. Others may be registered with a foreign nationality if the nationality is documented (normally by a passport).</p>	<p>Barneleva: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1981-04-08-7 (the Children Act), § 1 (NO). An example of a birth notification form (<i>fødselsmelding</i>): http://fritanke.no/filarkiv/11_skjema_melding_om_foedsel.pdf</p> <p>Folkeregisterloven: https://lovdata.no/lov/2016-12-09-88/§2-1 (Act of Population Registration), § 2-1 letter b (NO); See also folkeregisterforskriften: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2017-07-14-1201 (Population Registry Regulation), (NO).</p> <p>Håndbok i folkeregistrering versjon 2.1: https://www.skatteetaten.no/globalassets/rettskilder/handboker/folkeregistrering/handbok-i-folkeregistrering-2.1.pdf (Handbook on population registration, version 2.1, 09.11.2018) (NO).</p>
PRS.6.d		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>CRC: Articles 3 & 7</p> <p>1961 Convention: Articles 1 & 4</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Human Rights Committee, 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>UNHCR, Best Interests Procedure Guidelines (2021)</p> <p>Human Rights Committee, D.Z. v. Netherlands (2021)</p>	See above. Aside from the general procedures described above, Norway has no special safeguards in place to ensure that a child does not remain with undetermined nationality for a period over 5 years.	
PRS.6.e		Are there credible reports to suggest that, in practice, children are prevented from registering their birth (or their birth certificate issued abroad	<p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) UNCRC: Urge States parties to take all necessary measures to ensure that all children are immediately registered at birth and issued birth</p>	NO.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.

		<p>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>certificates, irrespective of their migration status or that of their parents. Legal and practical obstacles to birth registration should be removed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>European Parliament Resolution (2018): Calls on Member States to take immediate corrective measures to stop discriminatory birth registration.</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>Human Rights Committee, Rexha and Fasliu v. Albania (2025): States must prioritise adequate policies for birth registration, especially for children from marginalised communities.</p> <p>CJEU, V.M.A. (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> <p>ECtHR, Mennesson v. France (2014): States must grant legal recognition of parent-child relationship legally established abroad for children born through surrogacy.</p> <p>ECtHR, D.B. and others v. Switzerland (2022): Domestic law must provide a possibility of recognition of a legal parent-child relationship between the child born abroad through surrogacy to a same-sex couple and the intended parent.</p>		
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

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?	Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) UNCRC and Joint General Comment No. 3 (2017) CMW and No. 22 (2017) UNCRC : 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. 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.	There are strict confidentiality rules, especially regarding health-related data.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
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.	Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) UNCRC : Measures should also be taken to facilitate late registration of birth and to avoid financial penalties for late registration. 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. UNCRC, General Comment No. 7 (2005) : 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. UNCRC, General comment No. 20 (2016) : The lack of birth registration can result in significant additional complications during adolescence. Adolescents who have not been registered at birth or immediately after should be provided with free late birth certificates and civil registration. Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, nationality laws and statelessness (2023) : States should reduce or remove administrative and financial barriers, such as late registration fees, that inhibit or delay registration.	YES. The doctor or midwife must give notification of the birth to the National Registry Authority “when a child is born”. If a child is born without any assistance from a doctor or a midwife, the mother of the child has the obligation to notify the national registry “within one month” from the date of birth or, in case the child is born abroad, from the date of arrival to Norway. Nothing suggests that a late registration would not be accepted.	Barnelova: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1981-04-08-7 (the Children Act), § 1 (NO).
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	NO.	
PRS.6.i		Are children able to apply for their birth registration if this was not done by their parents or other representative? Please describe whether this is regulated in the State, and if so, whether there is a minimum age for the child to apply for birth registration.	EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2017) : States should provide procedures to allow children to apply for their birth registration in case their parents fail to do so.	There are no legal obstacles for this. However, there may be practical difficulties in obtaining a Norwegian birth certificate for children who were deported from Norway before they were able to obtain the birth certificate. In such case, the child should contact the nearest Norwegian embassy as well as the Norwegian Tax Administration (<i>Skatteetaten</i>).	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers.
PRS.7.a	Reduction of statelessness	Does the government have any programmes in place to promote civil registration (including birth	UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0 (2024) : Action 7	Nothing suggests that this is an issue.	

		registration)? If yes, please provide details.			
PRS.7.b		Are there particular sections of the population - such as minority groups or people affected by conflict - believed to be stateless or without their nationality confirmed/determined? Please provide details and source of information.	<p>1961 Convention: Article 9</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0 (2024): 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>	YES. Some persons with immigrant background, both with and without a residence permit. See statistics from Statistics Norway.	<p>Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå): https://www.ssb.no/en/statbank/sq/10093488</p> <p>Statistics Norway (Statistisk sentralbyrå): https://www.ssb.no/en/befolkning/artikler-og-publikasjoner/statelessness-many-worldwide-few-in-norway</p>
PRS.7.c		Has the State implemented any other measures specifically aimed at reducing (risk of) statelessness, including for particular groups who may be affected? (e.g. identification, registration or naturalisation campaigns, removal of treaty reservations, reform of discriminatory laws, facilitated access to documentation or residence status for specific groups, etc.)	<p>1961 Convention</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2.0 (2024): Actions 1 & 8</p> <p>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> <p>UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998): Principle 20</p> <p>Human Rights Council Resolution on the right to a nationality (2023): States should undertake initiatives to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities are aware of and able to exercise their rights, including the right of everyone to a nationality.</p> <p>Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women and girls, nationality laws and statelessness (2023): States should conduct public awareness-raising campaigns, establish accessible civil registration units, implement outreach programmes in remote and marginalised communities, and train health workers and civil registry officials with regard to statelessness and in a gender-sensitive manner.</p> <p>ENS, Statelessness and the prohibition on discrimination against Romani communities (2023): States must protect against arbitrary differential treatment and implement non-discriminatory policies. States should adopt and implement effective policies and measures to combat intersecting forms of discrimination.</p>	<p>To ensure that the Nationality Act is applied in line with the 1961 Convention, the Government issued on 28.10.2016 an instruction, G-08/2016, which is binding for the Directorate of Immigration (UDI), spelling out additional exemptions applicable specifically to persons born stateless under the Norwegian jurisdiction. The instruction covers persons born stateless in Norway irrespective of whether they currently are under or over 18 years old. According to the instruction, which is binding for the Directorate of Immigration (UDI), lawful residence is not a requirement for persons born stateless under the Norwegian jurisdiction to acquire Norwegian nationality. Factual, continuous residence of three years is sufficient in these cases. No residence period is required in cases where the parent of the applicant satisfies the requirements for permanent residence or where the parent is an EU national residing in Norway pursuant to EU rules on free movement.</p> <p>There have been no further Government initiatives to reduce statelessness in recent years.</p>	<p>Instruks G-08/2016: https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/instruks-om-tolkning-av-statsborgerloven---gjeldende-rett-for-statslose-sokere-som-er-fodt-i-norge/id2518182/?utm_source=www.regjeringen.no&utm_medium=epost&utm_campaign=Rundskriv-28.10.2016 (NO)</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.).	<p>1961 Convention: Article 8 & 9.</p> <p>ECN: Article 7(3).</p> <p>UDHR: Article 15(2).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>HRC, Report of the Secretary-General on Human Rights and Arbitrary Deprivation of Nationality (2009): para. 23.</p>	YES. There is a general safeguard against statelessness, but this does not apply to cancellation of nationality where nationality was obtained by misrepresentation or fraud.	Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), chapter V (NO).

			<p>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).</p> <p>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> <p>CoE, PACE Resolution 2263 (2019): States should review their legislation in the light of international standards prohibiting arbitrary deprivation of nationality, and repeal any laws that would allow it; provide for safeguards against statelessness in their national laws; abolish or refrain from introducing administrative procedures allowing for the deprivation of nationality not based on a criminal conviction; refrain from depriving minors of their nationality.</p> <p>ECtHR, Usmanov v. Russia (2020): A decision on deprivation of nationality must assess the consequences for the person and whether the measure is arbitrary.</p> <p>CJEU, Rottmann (2010): Decisions withdrawing nationality must be afforded a reasonable period of time in order to try to recover the nationality of their Member State of origin.</p> <p>CJEU, JY (2022): Decisions to revoke an assurance that nationality will be granted must be proportionate and consistent with EU law.</p> <p>CJEU, Tjebbes (2019): The loss of nationality must respect the principle of proportionality and national authorities must perform an individual assessment of the consequences for the applicants.</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)? Please briefly state if deprivation of nationality is only ever carried out in pursuance of a legitimate purpose, is provided for by law, is necessary, proportionate, in accordance with procedural safeguards, and in accordance with the right to respect for private and family life. Please also state if a reasonable period of time is afforded to allow recovery of the nationality of the State of origin in case of withdrawal of nationality.	<p>1961 Convention: Article 8(4)</p> <p>ECN: Articles 10 to 13</p> <p>ECHR: Article 8</p> <p>Charter of Fundamental Rights: Article 7</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <p>CoE, PACE Resolution 2263 (2019): States should abolish or refrain from introducing administrative procedures allowing for the deprivation of</p>	<p>In cases where nationality has been obtained by misrepresentation or fraud, the competent authority to decide on nationality cancellation is the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI). The first instance decision from the UDI may be appealed to the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE). A parliamentary initiative to subject all nationality cancellation cases to judicial oversight of a civil court was abandoned by the Government. Appeal to UNE is free of charge and free legal aid is provided. Final instance decision by UNE may be appealed to a civil court, but this is normally not free.</p> <p>Due process in nationality cancellation cases is grossly undermined as a result of insufficient free legal aid. Lawyers only get three hours covered by the state to prepare an appeal. In practice, this also covers answering an advance notice from the UDI. In cases where such advance notice had been answered before the amended rules on nationality cancellation entered into force, a lawyer now in practice only gets 1 hour covered to prepare an appeal under the new rules. An additional 5 hours are covered for personally representing a client at a hearing before UNE, but these</p>	<p>André Møkkelgjerd og Hanne Krogenæs, "Hvor ble det av rettshjelpen?", 11.09.2020, available at: https://www.noas.no/misforstatt-om-rettshjelp-fra-stortinget-i-statsborgersakene/</p> <p>Stykkprisforskriften, available at: https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2005-12-12-1442</p> <p>Rettshjelpsutvalget (The Legal Aid Committee), NOU 2020:05, (see p. 235): https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/d585490f628a4504bb450fd5d92f637/no/pdfs/nou202020200005000dddpdfs.pdf</p> <p>Prop. 141 L (2018–2019), see p. 24: https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/bea8209f36f34290ad0539508ef9acb0/no/pdfs/prp201820190141000dddpdfs.pdf</p>	

			<p>nationality not based on a criminal conviction; refrain from depriving nationals of their nationality.</p> <p>ECtHR, Usmanov v. Russia (2020) CJEU, Rottmann (2010) CJEU, JY (2022) CJEU, Tjebbes (2019)</p>	<p>hearings usually last longer. The Legal Aid Committee as well as the Norwegian Bar Association have both advised that the number of hours of free legal aid in nationality cancellation cases be increased.</p> <p>Deprivation of nationality in criminal cases and cases concerning fundamental national interests are described in more detail further below.</p> <p>Both nationality cancellation and deprivation are subject to the principles of necessity and proportionality, including the right to respect for private and family life. Nationality cancellation may result in statelessness. Deprivation of nationality in criminal cases and cases concerning fundamental national interests is only applicable in cases concerning dual citizens.</p>	
PRS.8.c		<p>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 of data or information on cases that resulted in statelessness.</p>		<p>Only cancellation of nationality (i.e. where nationality was originally obtained by misrepresentation or fraud) may result in statelessness. Cancellation of nationality is commonly applied in practice.</p> <p>A search in Lovdata Pro (done 05.06.2025) does not reveal any case law on deprivation of nationality in criminal cases (Section 26a of the Nationality Act).</p> <p>There is one decision from the Oslo District Court from February 2025 regarding deprivation of nationality for the sake of fundamental national interests (Section 26b of the Nationality Act).</p>	<p>Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), §§ 26, 26a, 26b (NO).</p> <p>Oslo District Court, TOSL-2023-154261, 07.02.2025: https://lovdata.no/avgjorelse/tosl-2023-154261 (NO)</p>
PRS.8.d		<p>Are there safeguards in law and practice to prevent renunciation or other forms of voluntary loss of nationality from resulting in statelessness?</p>	<p>1961 Convention: Article 7 ECN: Articles 7 and 8</p>	<p>YES, see section 25 of the Nationality Act:</p> <p>"A Norwegian national who is resident outside Norway and has another nationality is entitled, upon application, to be released from his or her Norwegian nationality. If the applicant is resident in Norway and has another nationality, he or she may only be released from Norwegian nationality if it would be unreasonable to refuse to allow this.</p> <p>Regardless of place of residence, the applicant may not be released from his or her Norwegian nationality if this entails that the applicant will become stateless. However, the applicant may be released from Norwegian nationality if he or she is resident outside Norway, and this is necessary for the acquisition of another nationality. In such case a time limit shall be set for when another nationality must be acquired. If another nationality has not been acquired before the time limit expires, the applicant shall be regarded as not having been released from his or her Norwegian nationality."</p>	<p>Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 25 (NO).</p>
PRS.8.e		<p>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>	<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.</p> <p>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, a legislative amendment in force since 01.01.2019 allows courts, as part of sentencing, to deprive of nationality persons who "exhibit conduct seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of Norway". This only applies in cases where the person is convicted for specific crimes (including terrorism) listed in Section 26a of the Nationality Act. This provision only applies to persons with dual citizenship. There are currently no court decisions made pursuant to this provision.</p> <p>According to Section 26b, in force since 12.03.2021, the Ministry may deprive of nationality a person who has shown conduct that may indicate that the person in question will seriously harm</p>	<p>Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 26 a (NO).</p> <p>Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 26 b (NO).</p>

			<p>CoE, PACE Resolution 2263 (2019): States should review provisions allowing for deprivation of nationality on terrorism grounds in light of international human rights obligations, refrain from applying this measure and envisage and prioritise wider use of other counter-terrorism measures.</p>	<p>fundamental national interests. The provision only applies to persons with dual citizenship. According to this provision, the Ministry may deprive persons of nationality based on "en fremferd som kan tilsi at vedkommende sterkt vil skade slike interesser", meaning: a behaviour which may indicate that the person in question will seriously damage such interests. Hence, Section 26b opens for nationality deprivation based on an assessment of current behaviour where the feared harm to fundamental national interests has not yet materialised. Nationality deprivation pursuant to this provision may hence be preemptory (i.e. without adherence to the principle of retribution, as is the case under Section 26a). According to the preparatory works, this is to be interpreted in line with Article 7(1)(d) of the European Convention of Nationality and includes cases of treason or espionage. There is one known case from February 2025, which concerned a member of the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP). The Court noted that the plaintiff had neither automatically lost Afghan citizenship when acquiring Norwegian citizenship nor ever renounced Afghan citizenship.</p>	<p>Prop. 134 L (2019–2020), p. 42 (NO)</p> <p>Oslo District Court, TOSL-2023-154261, 07.02.2025: https://lovdata.no/avgjorelse/tosl-2023-154261 (NO)</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. CoE, PACE Resolution 2263 (2019): States should not discriminate between citizens on the basis of the way in which they have acquired nationality, in order to avoid indirect discrimination against minorities.</p>	NO.		
PRS.8.g	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>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>YES, there are partial safeguards. The main rule is that nationality acquired by a person who was under 18 at the time of application (or the time of acquiring the nationality) cannot be cancelled. However, there is an exemption from this rule, which applies to cases where the person is deemed not to have a "strong connection to the realm", subject to an individual assessment. This exception does not apply to children under 18 where the cancellation would result in statelessness and the child would be unable to acquire another nationality in a "simple manner".</p>	<p>Statsborgerloven: https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2005-06-10-51 (Nationality Act), § 26 (NO).</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).		<p>There are seven final judgments by the Borgarting Court of Appeal (Borgarting lagmannsrett), concerning 11 applicants, who alleged that a refusal from the Immigration Appeals Board to grant international protection was inconsistent with the 1954 Statelessness Convention. A report published by the Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS) in November 2020 provides a legal analysis of these decisions. The report is only available in Norwegian.</p> <p>Important statements concerning the statelessness definition in the 1954-Convention are found in the following two decisions from the Borgarting Court of Appeal:</p> <p>LB-2020-11150: "[...] a person who is a national of a country, but who despite all possible efforts is unable to document this to the country's authorities, may be equated with a stateless person, cf. the expression "operation of its law"."</p> <p>LB-2019-183809: "A person will be stateless under the provision if the authorities do not "consider" the foreigner as a citizen, cf. Article 1(1) of the Convention. This will be the case where a foreigner has presented all documentation that he can reasonably be expected to provide to the competent authorities, and the authorities nevertheless refuse to recognize the citizenship."</p> <p>Decision LB-2020-11150 was a groundbreaking decision that has led to the reversal of almost all other AI-Tash cases by the Immigration Appeals Board.</p>	<p>Marek Linha, Stateless people in Norwegian case law: An analysis of the status of stateless persons in Norway five years after UNHCR's mappingstudy, November 2021, available in Norwegian at: https://www.noas.no/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NOAS_Statsløse-i-norsk-rettspraksis_WEB.pdf (NO)</p> <p>Borgarting Court of Appeal, LB-2020-11150, 09.12.2020: https://lovdata.no/avgjorelse/lb-2020-11150 (NO)</p> <p>Borgarting Court of Appeal, LB-2019-183809, 09.15. 2020: https://lovdata.no/avgjorelse/lb-2019-183809 (NO)</p>
RES.2.a	Free legal assistance	Are there specialised lawyers or organisations providing free advice to stateless people or people with undetermined nationality? If yes, please describe.	UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014) : Applicants must have access to legal counsel.	Some law firms in Norway have developed special competency in statelessness issues, as part of their cooperation with NOAS in related strategic litigation. NOAS provides specialised legal aid to asylum seekers as well as to stateless persons who do not have a residence permit in any country.	Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers: http://www.noas.no/en/
RES.3.a	Literature	Is there domestic academic literature on statelessness? Please list and provide references and hyperlinks (where available).		NO.	
RES.4.a.	Examples of identity and travel documents	Please insert pictures of anonymised identity and/or travel documents issued to stateless people in your country (if applicable). If the country issues several documents, please specify what each document is.	Not applicable as stateless persons are not granted an identity or travel document on the basis of their statelessness status. See SDS.14b.		