

Call for participation

DEADLINE EXTENDED – 17th NOVEMBER

Training course on Statelessness and the right to a Nationality for African Portuguese-speaking practitioners

1 – Context

At least 10 million people in the world are stateless. Statelessness results from a juridical vacuum preventing an individual to enjoy his/her right to a nationality: its main causes are gaps in nationality laws, arbitrary deprivation of nationality, processes relating to State succession and restrictive administrative practices, for instance in relation to issuance of documents which prove nationality.

While human rights are in principle universal and inherent, in practice stateless persons are exposed to serious violations of their fundamental rights: they are often unable to obtain identity documents and can therefore be denied access to education and health services; they may encounter difficulties in obtaining employment; their freedom of movement and full participation in public life can be prevented; they may also face the risk of being detained for reasons linked to their status.

Since 1974, the UN general Assembly has mandated UNHCR to lead global efforts to address statelessness by supporting the identification of stateless populations and the protection of stateless persons, as well as promoting efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness.

According to UNHCR estimates, statelessness affects up to 10 million people worldwide, at least one million of which are in West Africa. There are many factors contributing to the risk of statelessness in the region, which suggest that the population at risk is very large.

A milestone achievement towards the eradication of statelessness in West Africa is represented by the Abidjan Declaration on the eradication of statelessness, adopted in February 2015 by all ECOWAS Member States.

On 9 May 2017, the region made one step further. The ECOWAS member States validated the “Banjul Plan of Action on the eradication of statelessness in West Africa” which sets out concrete measures to end statelessness by 2024 and is legally binding on all the Member States.

Against this background, UNHCR plans to organize a training course on “*Statelessness and the Right to a Nationality*” for African Portuguese-speaking professionals issued from governments, civil society and international organizations.

2 - Objective and contents

The participants will be provided with solid working tools through presentations, practical cases and exchanges on different experiences.

The training course should focus on (i) the right to a Nationality, (ii) the prevention and reduction of statelessness, (iii) the protection of stateless persons, and (iv) the ECOWAS framework related to the eradication of statelessness.

3 - Date and venue of the training

The 5-day training will be organised in Saly, Mbour region, from the 27 November to the 1st December.

4 - Who can apply

Portuguese-speaking professionals issued from governments, international organizations, civil society, lawyers and judges, NGOs and human rights activists interested in the issue of Nationality and Statelessness and working in Cabe Verde, Guinea Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe.

Preference will be accorded to i) Government authorities, national NGOs and other practitioners currently involved in projects on Nationality/Statelessness in the above mentioned Countries ii) practitioners with specific study and work experience on Nationality/Statelessness and working in the above Countries.

5 – How to apply

Interested candidates are invited to submit their CV and a Motivational Letter (in Portuguese or English) to the following addresses: loschiav@unhcr.org, copying diopabd@unhcr.org and farias@unhcr.org by **17 November COB**.

Please indicate in the subject line: Application for training course on Statelessness in Portuguese.