

NEWSLETTER

LEGAL AID FOR PERSONS AT RISK OF STATELESSNESS/STATELESS

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IN BRIEF:

- **133** undocumented individuals, beneficiaries of free legal aid, were equipped with civil status documents, thus enabling them utilization of other rights and services.
- **10** individuals initiated in court procedure. **3** positive court decision received.
- **25** individuals with complex nature of requests were successfully assisted in administrative procedure
- **146** undocumented individuals mostly from Roma, Ashkalia and Egyptian communities were identified in need of legal aid.

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO STATELESS PERSONS CRP/K continues to promote legal solution for all persons who are stateless and cannot attain the citizenship in accordance with the prescribed legal rules in Kosovo.

Upon the advocacy and in cooperation with the relevant authorities the extension of Identity Cards for 4 persons with stateless status was made possible. In the meantime, 3 new recognitions were provided, and 5 more applications submitted in September. Upon the recognition of the stateless status and issuance of an ID to female applicants, birth registration of their 6 children was made legally possible.

CRP/K legal staff provided information on integration prospect for persons with granted stateless status and support in attaining their





PHOTO CREDIT: UNHCR KOSOVO

‘Leave no one behind - importance of the establishment of the legal identity and access to rights’

UNHCR, Ombudsperson Institution and CRP/K have held a conference to address the issues relevant to persons at risk of statelessness and with granted stateless status. The event gathered relevant authorities, municipalities, international organizations, civil society and persons of concern to discuss challenges in establishing a legal identity, good practices, potential solutions and recommendations to further reduce the number of unregistered persons. Civil Registration Agency (CRA) along with other institutions recognized the need to continue to work further on issue relevant to prevention and reduction of the persons unregistered at birth and/or with undetermined nationality, and thus pledged openly to create solutions mechanism for identification, reduction, prevention and protection.



INFORMATION SESSIONS

Without legal identification such as a birth certificate, children are essentially invisible. They are at a higher risk of being excluded from basic rights like education, health care and social services.

Two (2) information sessions were held in Obiliq/Obilic municipality with children on the importance of birth registration, as well as the rights deriving from the possession of civil documentation.



Following the discussions each of the children shared their thought on which rights are most important. The right to a legal identity, education, health care, as well as equal treatment were some of the most mentioned rights.

Together we came to the conclusion that the registration of the fact of birth was the starting point for the realization of their dreams, being a teacher, a doctor or an athlete.

CRP/K, as a part of the civil society organizations and a legal partner of UNHCR, continues to play an important role in cooperation with the authorities in enhancing the legislative framework through provision of the expert opinion on the observed gaps in the current normative framework and potential legal solutions that would enable identification and reduction of persons at risk of statelessness.

Seven (7) legal acts were reviewed and comments/suggestions in improvement/enhancement of targeted legal norms in accordance with the principles of international law in the field of civil status registration and citizenship were accepted.



Focus group

3 focus group meetings were held with NGOs, working on issues of Roma, Ashkalia and Egyptian communities, representatives from Ombudsman Institution and Free Legal Aid Agency. The aim was to optimize and synergize the approach towards the concerns and various issues community members are facing starting from civil status registration, access to education, and access to health and social healthcare services.



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
+383 (0) 38 243 -610 | ST. LORENC ANTONI, NO.15, 10000 - PRISHTINE**