

Equal nationality rights for equal citizens, women and men.

Twenty-seven countries deny mothers the right to confer nationality on their children on an equal basis with fathers; 53 countries maintain some form of gender discrimination in their nationality laws, including denying women the equal right to confer nationality to non-national spouses.

This discrimination results in significant and wide-ranging human rights violations, including statelessness; obstacles to accessing education, healthcare and social services; links with gender-based violence, human trafficking and child marriage; political disenfranchisement; poverty and social marginalization.

The Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (Global Campaign) works to end gender discrimination in nationality laws through its coalition of national, regional and international NGOs, activists and UN agencies.

Since its launch in 2014, the Global Campaign has exposed the costs of gender-discriminatory nationality laws and is mobilizing action to realize needed reforms amongst international and national policy makers and civil society.

“The Global Campaign is an important partner in our effort to end gender discrimination in nationality laws, one of the leading causes of statelessness and a cause of numerous other human rights abuses. Due to the momentum that it has built and its demonstrated ability to convene and influence key stakeholders, I believe the Global Campaign has the ability to contribute to vital legal reforms in coming years.”

- Senior Legal Coordinator and
Section Chief, Statelessness at UNHCR

Our Impact

Convene and Inform Policy Makers and Support Human Rights Mechanisms at the International Level

- **Informed parliamentarians/government representatives from over 50 countries** of the significant negative impact of gender discriminatory nationality laws and the benefits of reform.
- **Conducted high-level briefings with governments and intergovernmental organizations** on the importance of supporting reforms for gender-equal nationality rights and links with international development cooperation priorities.
- Convened a high-level ministerial event at the Commission on the Status of Women, with co-sponsorship by and panelists from seven Member States (Algeria, Australia, Senegal, United States, Morocco, Tunisia, Bahamas). The Bahamas announced its commitment to advancing reforms and is now holding a **Constitutional Referendum** seeking to end gender discrimination in its nationality law in June 2016.
- **Conducted private briefings with the Committees on the Convention of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) & Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** to facilitate more comprehensive attention to gender discriminatory nationality laws in countries' CEDAW and CRC reviews.
- **Submitted 20 Human Rights Treaty Body Review submissions** and briefs to inform the CEDAW, CRC and/or Universal Periodic Reviews of 16 campaign target countries.



Catalyze action at the national level to reform gender-discriminatory nationality laws

- Following the **first national workshop in Madagascar on nationality rights**, including civil society and government representatives from parliament and relevant ministries, affected individuals and media:
 - » The **President of the National Assembly committed to propose a bill removing gender discrimination in the nationality law.**
 - » **30 parliamentarians** signed a letter of commitment to **support reforms to achieve women's equal nationality rights.**
 - » The negative impact of gender discrimination in the nationality law and the importance of reform was widely covered by national television, newspaper and radio media, **shaping public discourse.**
 - » **A new nationality law** is now being drafted to eliminate gender discrimination in the nationality law.
- **A Gulf regional conference on women's nationality rights** in Bahrain revitalized their Nationality Campaign, which had been stifled since government clampdowns in 2011. Following the conference which convened Bahraini government representatives from parliament, relevant ministries, Shura Council, National Institution for Human Rights, media

and civil society from **seven MENA countries**:

- » Proposals were developed by the National Institution for Human Rights and the civil society-led Nationality Campaign for a **new nationality law, advancing women's ability to confer to children.**
- » **Significant media attention and public dialogue** garnered around women's nationality rights.

"The Global Campaign's support for this conference resurrected the Nationality Campaign in Bahrain, which was blocked since 2011."

- Leading Bahraini women's rights activist

Strengthen civil society to advocate for gender equal nationality rights through cross-regional collaboration

- Our website is the **only global resource** on gender discrimination in nationality laws
- **Over 20** national, regional and international coalition members.

For further information, contact:

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