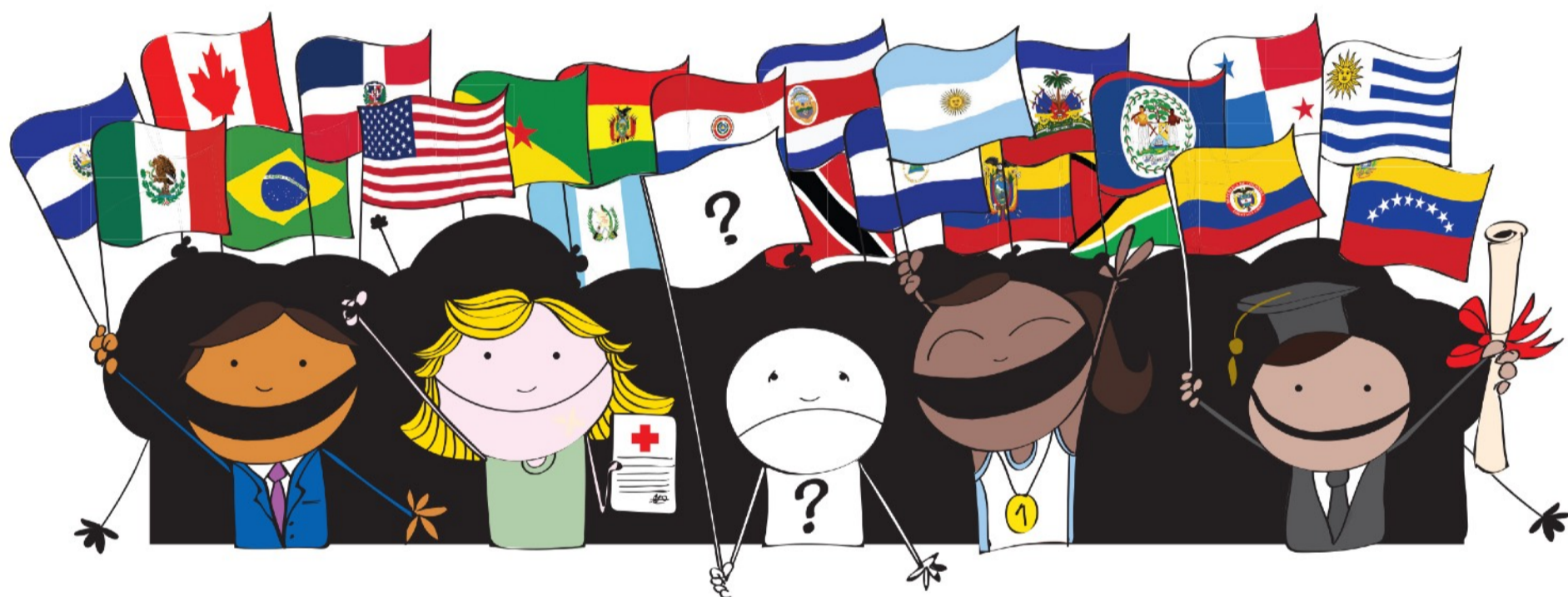


# AMERICAS NETWORK ON NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

## LETTER FROM OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

The Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness (Red ANA, for its acronym in Spanish) is a network of civil society organizations, academic initiatives and independent experts engaged with the topic of statelessness in the Americas. The network seeks to raise awareness about the current statelessness situation in the region, identify the population affected by it and advocate for the recognition and respect of the rights of stateless persons. To do so, Red ANA creates a consolidated network that can better defend the rights of stateless persons through the exchange of experience and knowledge about statelessness. Our objective is to cooperate with States to strengthen international protection mechanisms and exchange information with our sister organizations around the world.

This project originated from the Non-Governmental Organization Annual Consultations and the Statelessness Retreat organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2013. In these events, members of the European Network on Statelessness and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion discussed the benefits of working in regional coalitions and exchanging shared experience with future members of Red ANA.

Since its official launch in November 2014 in the city of Washington, D.C., Red ANA has joined the UNHCR #IBelong Global Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 years and its objectives.

Two years since its establishment, Red ANA now has more than 70 members throughout the Latin American region. In 2016, the network consolidated and strengthened its membership, expanded its presence in the region through increasing representation at UNHCR events, reaffirming its commitment to expand action capacity through hosting its Webinars, publishing its Monthly Information Bulletins, making substantive changes to its Website to include new topics and languages, contributing through the exchange of ideas and experience for the consolidation of other regional networks, and supporting country initiatives through the organization of events in collaboration with its members.

Red ANA firmly believes that the the eradication of statelessness can only be achieved when we work in collaboration. With the potential the Americas has to be the first region to achieve this goal, Red ANA reaffirms its compromise to keep on working towards making this possible in the near future. The Steering Committee wants to recognize the work of Ivonne Garza, Red ANA Coordinator in 2016, whose dedication and compromise were decisive to attain all the achievements summarized in this report.

Please do not hesitate to contact us through our email [info@americasns.org](mailto:info@americasns.org) if you have any questions regarding the information contained in this report. You can also find more information on our Website [www.americasns.org](http://www.americasns.org).

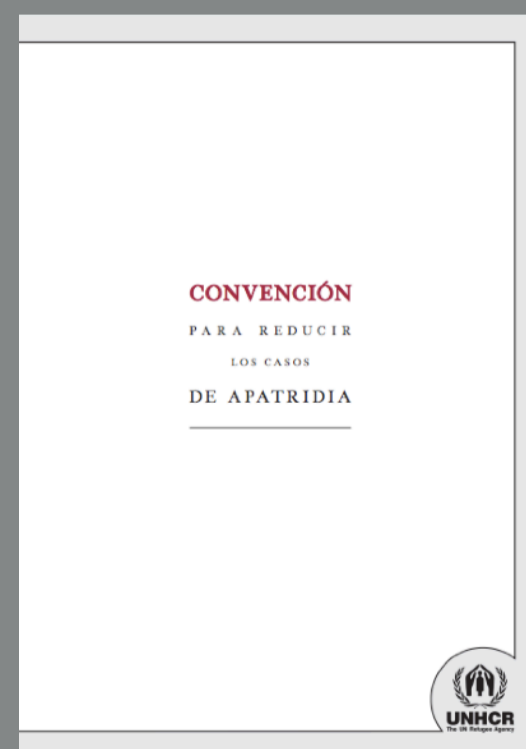
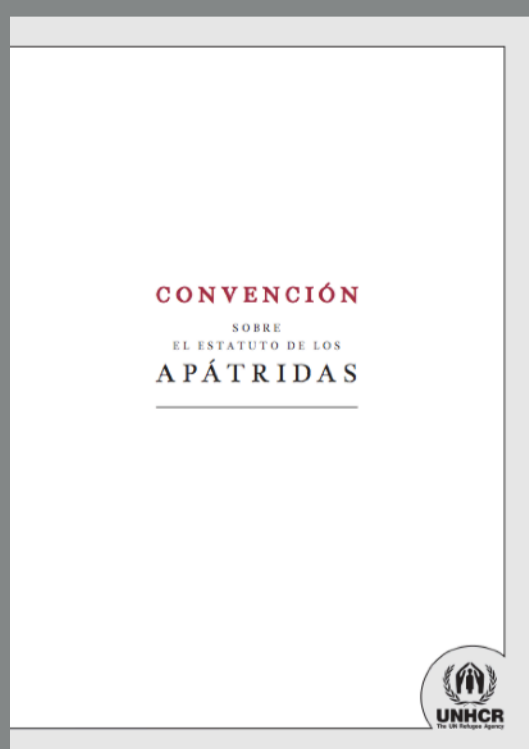
Sincerely,

Steering Committee  
Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness

## INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The fight to combat and eradicate statelessness has a robust international legal framework that allows to: identify stateless persons, to grant protection to stateless persons, facilitate the naturalization of stateless persons, and prevent the emergence of new cases of statelessness. These objectives are part of the 1954 Convention for the Statute of Stateless Persons, which regulates the rights to which stateless persons must have access, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, which in turn contains the obligations of States concerning the prevention and eradication of statelessness. By the end of 2016, 19 countries in the Americas were parties to the 1954 Convention for the Status of Stateless Persons and to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 1961.

In addition to these instruments, since 2014 the region has the Brazil Declaration and the Brazil Action Plan which, in addition to covering the international protection of refugees and migrants, for the first time denote the importance of addressing the issue of statelessness in the region and establish the guidelines for doing so in Chapter Six of the Plan. The Declaration of Brazil and the Plan of Action are the first global initiatives to be created around the goals set by the UNHCR Global Campaign launched in 2014. Thus, the Americas has positioned itself globally as a regional leader in the fight to eradicate statelessness. Furthermore, due to the integration of the elements of *jus soli* and *jus sanguinis* in most of its legal frameworks, it is positioned as the best suited region to be the first to reach that goal. To date, the Brazilian Declaration and the Brazilian Action Plan have been adopted by 28 countries and 3 territories: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay and Venezuela.



# NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS IN THE AMERICAS



## NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS IN THE AMERICAS



In 2016, significant developments on the issue of nationality and statelessness took place in the Americas. Although there was no increase in accession to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions - the last of which were Belize in August 2015 for the 1961 Convention and El Salvador for the 1954 Convention in February 2015 - there were relevant developments in the adoption of procedures for the determination of stateless status and in the adoption of public policies aimed at the identification of the stateless population and the necessary attention for its eradication.

The first developments took place in Costa Rica, where a statelessness determination procedure was adopted by Executive Decree in April 2016, and came into force in November. Costa Rica has complemented this effort with positive inter-institutional practices that have allowed the organization of mobile brigades to rural and border areas to identify the stateless population and those at risk of statelessness. These initiatives have been implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, UNHCR and the Costa Rican Civil Registry. A clear example of this type of project and its results is the *Chirificos* project, which has enabled the identification of approximately 800 cases in which people required assistance in registering their births through a census. Several countries such as Brazil, Chile, Honduras and Ecuador made significant efforts to promote discussion of the issue of statelessness at the legislative level which derived from projects with potential adoption in 2017.

A second relevant project took place in Chile, where an estimated 3,000 children have been identified at risk of stateless on the northern border with Peru. The inter-institutional project *Chile Reconoce* made possible the creation of a team that confirmed the Chilean nationality of 100 persons. Thus, this number joins the figure of those who, after the Chilean Supreme Court resolution of 2013 have managed to be registered as Chileans after being categorized as children of foreigners in transit. According to the report of this project, to September 2016 the cases of 2,347 people are still pending resolution.

It is also important to mention that working with Ombudsmen and civil society organizations in the countries of the region has made it possible to increase the identification of statelessness cases. Red ANA witnessed these advances in Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Argentina and Uruguay.



# ACTIVITIES



## STRATEGIC COUNTRY MEETINGS



In May, Red ANA held a meeting with Chile's National Human Rights Institute to share information, projects and objectives on statelessness in Chile.

On August 29, the National Human Rights Institute (INDH, for its acronym in Spanish), the Diego Portales University Human Rights Center, the Alberto Hurtado University Migrants Clinic, and the Jesuit Migrant Service submitted information to the Chilean Aliens and Migration Department and the Director of the Chilean National Civil Registry containing the results of a collaborative and inter-institutional work realized by the four institutions over the first half of the year in Antofagasta, Chile and Calama, Chile.

As a result, the State agreed to rectify as soon as possible the wrongful registration of the people identified in these cities who had been denied Chilean nationality at the time of their birth, and were therefore registered as children of foreigners in transit instead of being registered as Chilean nationals.

In addition, the creation of a task force to implement a project with the support of UNHCR was agreed upon. The task force will aim to analyze the gaps in the current nationality confirmation procedure, and try to address the situation of the largest possible number of children of foreigners in transit who still reside in Chile and are at risk of statelessness.



In June, representatives of Red ANA participated in a meeting with the Ombudsman's Office in Costa Rica where efforts were made to move towards the elimination of statelessness in the country.

On 9 September, Red ANA organized a training workshop with members of the Costa Rican Government and the Ombudsman's Office of Costa Rica.



On April 14, Red ANA held a meeting with Commissioner Enrique Gil Botero of the Rapporteurship on Migrants' Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to share projects and objectives on statelessness in the Americas.



Red ANA visited Haiti and met with the head of the UNHCR mission to discuss the situation of statelessness on the border with the Dominican Republic and the work of Red ANA in the region. Red ANA also held a meeting with the European Union's mission in Haiti to discuss this issue and raise possibilities for collaboration.

## STRATEGIC COUNTRY MEETINGS



As part of its visit to Mexico, on August 22, Red ANA held a meeting with the Fifth Visitor of the National Human Rights Commission, Dr. Egdar Corzo Sosa, to share projects and objectives on the eradication of Statelessness in Mexico.



Red ANA held meetings with members of the Foreign Ministry and the Office of the Ombudsman of Peru to exchange information on the state of statelessness at the Legislative and Executive level in the Andean country.

## WEBINARS



Red ANA and ENCUENTROS presented a Webinar in April to discuss the status of statelessness in Peru. The Webinar was presented by César Ruiz, Coordinator of the Human Mobility Program of ENCUENTROS, who gave an overview of the Peruvian legal framework on statelessness and spoke about the cases identified as well as the challenges they face in finding them a solution.



In July, the Red ANA and the Ecumenical Service for Human Dignity (SEDHU, for its acronym in Spanish) organized a webinar on statelessness in Uruguay. This Webinar dealt with the legal framework of nationality, the statelessness law initiative, the status of ratification of international instruments and the individual cases that have hitherto been identified in Uruguay.



In November, Red ANA offered a webinar on statelessness in Colombia by Mónica Alexandra Jiménez Amorocho, an independent expert affiliated with our network.



In August, Red ANA held a Webinar on the UNHCR Model Law with Juan Ignacio Mondelli, UNHCR Statelessness Protection Officer. In this space; the improvements to the second version of this law were discussed.





# PUBLIC EVENTS

## UNHCR EVENTS ABOUT NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS

### **Course on International Refugee Law**

Members of Red ANA participated in the Course on International Refugee Law organized by the Organization of American States and UNHCR. Red ANA met with representatives of the UNHCR Statelessness Department to discuss our work in the region and future projects.



### **Training Workshop on Statelessness**

Red ANA and UNHCR also organized a Training Workshop on Statelessness in Chile. From May 31 to June 2, various civil society organizations from the region gathered at Diego Portales University to exchange ideas on actions and strategies to eradicate statelessness in the Americas. The event was attended by representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF and the European Network on Statelessness.

### **Annual Meeting and Retreat in Geneva**

Members of the Red ANA Steering Committee met in Geneva with the Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion, representatives of civil society organizations and other regional networks to share ideas and strategies on the work that civil society must do on the issue of statelessness. Following this meeting, Red ANA participated in the UNHCR Annual Retreat on Statelessness in Crêt-Bérard, Switzerland.



### **UNHCR Regional Workshop for States**

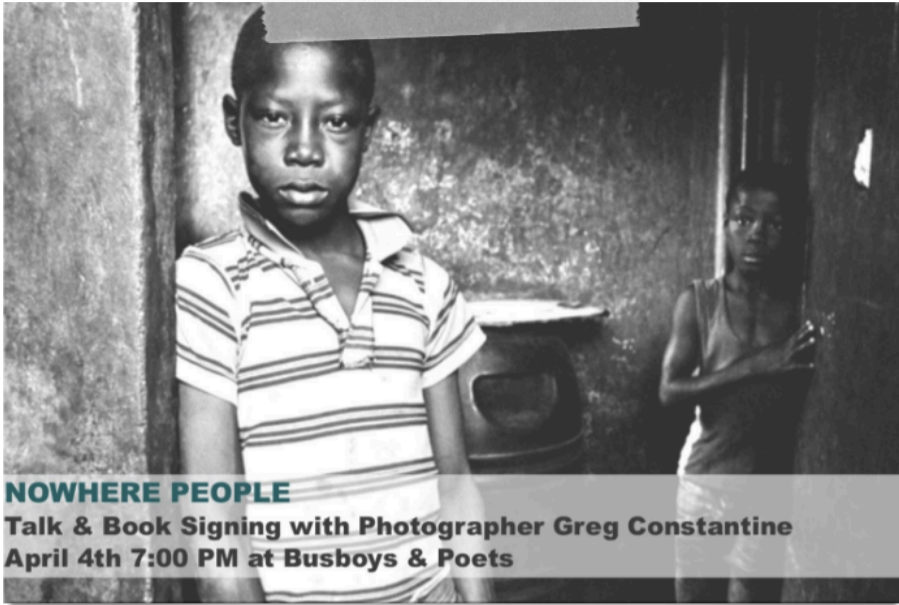
Red ANA participated in the UNHCR regional workshop for State agents in Trinidad and Tobago giving a presentation on the 1954 Convention and the implications of its content.

### **UNHCR Regional Meeting of Parliamentarians**

Red ANA participated in the Regional Meeting of Parliamentarians and the Regional Meeting on Statelessness Determination Procedures organized by UNHCR in the city of Quito, Ecuador last November.



## PUBLIC EVENTS



### **NOWHERE PEOPLE**

Talk & Book Signing with Photographer Greg Constantine  
April 4th 7:00 PM at Busboys & Poets

### **Our Lives in Transit**

On the third anniversary of Judgment 168-13 of the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic, the Human Rights Institute of Georgetown University Law Center, Red ANA and Minority Rights Group International, screened the documentary *Our lives in Transit*, followed by a discussion panel on the current challenges of the situation of statelessness in the Dominican Republic. Judgment 168-13 of September of 2013 revoked the Dominican nationality of tens of thousands of people born in the Dominican Republic, the majority of them of Haitian descent.

### **Nowhere People**

In April, Red ANA hosted an event at Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C. where Greg Constantine's photographic project showing statelessness in the world, *Nowhere People*, was presented.

### **Statelessness Summer Course**

During the month of August Red ANA participated in the Statelessness Summer Course given by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion in Tilburg, The Netherlands. The course covered various topics around statelessness, bringing together participants and speakers from various regions of the world. Red ANA was also interviewed by Jacques Nesi, representative of the PAFHA (Platform for Franco-Haitian Associations), to present the work of the network and its activities in Haiti. This interview broadcasted in September on Radio Fréquence Paris Plurielle and Radio Sud-Internationale.



### **Training Workshop on Statelessness in Lima**

On October 27 and 28, Red ANA organized two days of training on statelessness in conjunction with ENCUEENTROS Jesuit Service of Solidarity and the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.

### **New Global Justice Issues**

On October 30 David Baluarte, a member of the ANA Steering Committee, gave a presentation on statelessness in the Americas at the "New Global Justice Issues" conference of Yale University's Global Justice Program.





## COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STATELESSNESS NETWORKS



Azizbek Ashurov of the Asian Network for the Reduction of Statelessness visited Washington, D.C. in March 2016 and met with our members to discuss ideas and good practices around statelessness.

Red ANA also held a meeting with the Asia Pacific Statelessness Network (SNAP) prior to its launch, to exchange knowledge, ideas and good practices on statelessness and initiatives that networks can implement in their regions.



# BULLETIN, LISTSERV, VIDEOS, AND WEBSITE

Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness

Red de las Américas sobre Nacionalidad y Apatridia

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La Red ANA saluda la entrada en vigor del Reglamento para la declaratoria de la Condición de Persona Apátrida en Costa Rica, que posiciona a dicho país como el segundo en la región en adoptar un proceso que permite prevenir los casos de apatridia y garantizar la protección de las personas que sean declaradas apátridas, incluido el acceso a procedimientos para obtener una nacionalidad.



## INFORMATION BULLETIN AND LISTSERV

Between March and December 2016, 7 bulletins were published in English and Spanish. Through this tool, Red ANA kept the members of the network and the community informed about its activities.

Our Listserv, dedicated to communicating events and developments in the area of nationality and statelessness, also remained active during 2016 and reached 400 registrations.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

In the course of 2016, Red ANA made progress in three research projects: one on the State of the Art of Statelessness in the Americas, another on the Nationality Legal Framework in Haiti and a final one on Nationality in Colombia. These projects remain pending for publication in 2017.

## VIDEOS

The multimedia section of our website allows users to access informative videos. A first section of Webinars publishes all the videos that result from the Red ANA Webinar Series. They all contain substantive content on statelessness in specific places of the Americas and other issues that interact with statelessness.

Likewise, Red ANA has 3 institutional videos in Spanish and English. The Red ANA presentation video and one of the current State of Statelessness in the Americas are available in Spanish and English; while the third on the 10 actions of the UNHCR Global Action Plan and its implementation in the Americas is available in Spanish only.

In addition to the institutional videos, Red ANA has two external podcasts, consisting of an episode about a young woman born in Texas who cannot prove her existence, and an interview with Liesl Muller, Head of the Human Rights Lawyers Statelessness Project.



Boletín 5

Mayo - Junio | 2016



El pasado mes de junio miembros del Comité Directivo de la Red ANA se reunieron en Ginebra con el Instituto de Inclusión y Apatridia, representantes de organizaciones de la sociedad civil y otras redes regionales para compartir ideas y estrategias en torno al trabajo que la sociedad civil debe realizar en torno al tema de apatridia. Después de esta reunión, la Red ANA participó en el Retiro Anual sobre Apatridia organizado por el ACNUR en Crêt-Bérard, Suiza.

La Red ANA y el ACNUR organizaron un taller de capacitación sobre apatridia en Chile. Del 31 de mayo al 2 de junio diversas organizaciones de la sociedad civil de la región se reunieron en la Universidad Diego Portales para intercambiar ideas en torno a las acciones y estrategias para erradicar la apatridia en las Américas. El



ACNUR Campaña  
#IBELONG



No te pierdas el nuevo video "¿Por qué estas 10 millones de personas no pertenecen?" de la campaña #IBelong del ACNUR.

AMNESTÍA  
INTERNACIONAL



"¿DÓNDE VAMOS A VIVIR?"  
MIGRACIÓN Y APATRIDIA EN LA  
REPUBLICA DOMINICANA Y HAITÍ

AMN 6

**Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness**  
**Red de las Américas sobre Nacionalidad y Apatridia**

ENGLISH ESPAÑOL FRANÇAIS HOME ABOUT US LEGAL FRAMEWORK NEWS BY COUNTRY RESOURCES MULTIMEDIA CONTACT

Red ANA’s website was renewed in 2016. As a result of the changes, the site has five sections available in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

Through the website [www.americasns.org](http://www.americasns.org), visitors can contact the network, access monthly newsletters, annual reports, communications and network information, courses, webinars, legal frameworks of each country, news by country, multimedia and information of interest of other human rights organizations that address the issue of nationality and statelessness.

In 2016 our website reached 2,732 visits in 2016, 5,187 page views, and a total audience size of 2,097. Below is a chart containing the aforementioned information. The line closest to the base of the table indicates the size of the audience, the middle line indicates the visits, and the line near the end of the table indicates the page views.

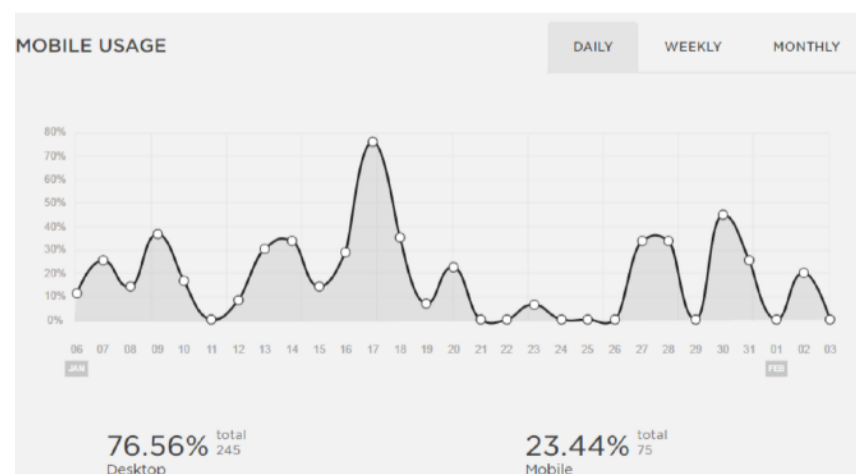
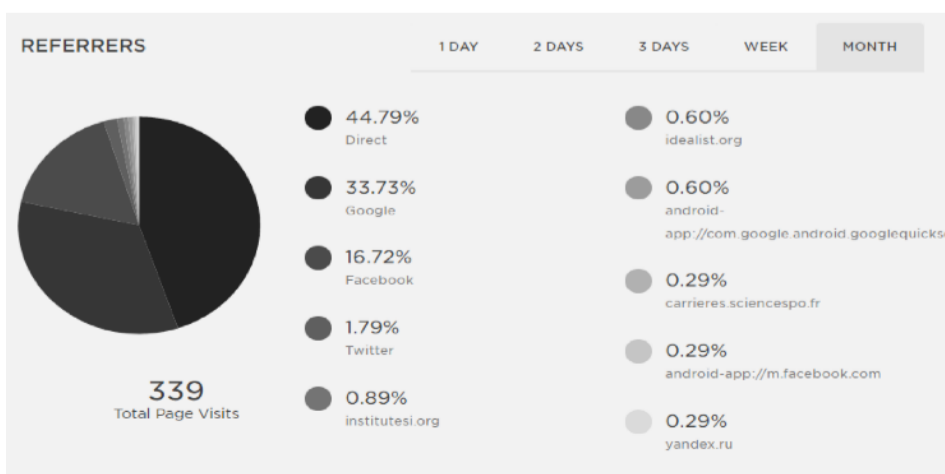


December	216	387	154
November	328	578	217
October	226	457	154
September	270	472	169
August	344	921	191
July	246	389	166
June	303	557	190
May	272	483	186
April	264	437	208
March	263	545	203

Detailed table with visits, page views, and audience size per month.

The percentage of the following table reflects the way visitors entered the Red ANA website. For example, 44.79% entered directly, while 33.73% used a search engine, such as Google, to get to the website.

Another relevant fact is that 76.56% of visitors enter from a computer, while 23.44% from a mobile device.



**“THE REGION WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ENGAGE WITH THE ERADICATION OF STATELESSNESS AS A RESPONSE TO THE UNHCR GLOBAL CAMPAIGN.”**

**Renata Dubini**

**Director of the Office for the Americas  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

## FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATION

Red ANA activities in 2016 would not have been possible without the financial support of the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Additionally, the financing of Red ANA was complemented by the contributions that the Center for Justice and International Law granted for the administration and operations of the network. This is due to the fact that CEJIL is the organization that currently hosts Red ANA.

Finally, the Open Society Justice Initiative financially supported specific events of the network and its members.



## STEERING COMMITTEE



During 2016 our Steering Committee was composed of: Francisco Quintana of CEJIL, Jocelyn Kane of the Canadian Centre on Statelessness, Delfina Lawson of Diego Portales University, David Baluarte of Washington and Lee University, Angelita Baeyens of Robert Kennedy Center for Human Rights and Liliana Gamboa of Open Society Foundations. The Red ANA Steering Committee, together with its Coordinator Ivonne Garza, has been responsible for the operational administration of the network, as well as substantive and procedural decisions.

## MEMBERSHIP

In its second year of operations, Red ANA consolidated its membership and to date, the network has approximately 70 members. Red ANA was founded by six organizations: the Center for Justice and International Law, the Open Society Justice Initiative of the Open Society Foundations, the Canadian Center on Statelessness, the Diego Portales University Center for Human Rights, the Center for Migration Observation and Social Development in the Caribbean (OBMICA) and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights.





# AMERICAS NETWORK ON NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS

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**FOR A RIGHT TO NATIONALITY FOR ALL**