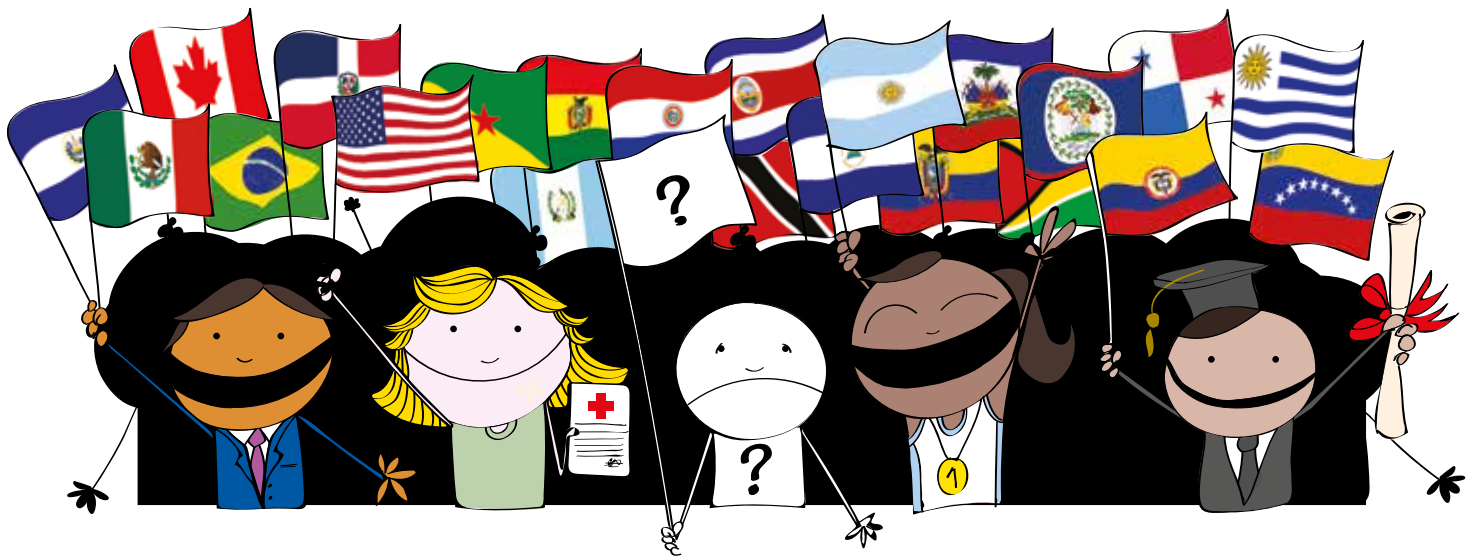


# Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness

For a right to nationality for all



# Annual Report 2015

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# Introducción



Foto: Red ANA

The Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness (Red ANA) was officially launched at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Eventt “Out from the Shadows: Ending Statelessness in the Americas”, held in Washington DC in November 2014, when the Office launched the Global Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years.

Red ANA is a network of civil society organizations, academic initiatives, and individual experts committed to address statelessness in the Americas. It seeks to raise awareness of statelessness in the Americas, identify affected people throughout the region, and advocate for the recognition and respect of the rights of stateless persons. To this end, Red ANA aims to engage in knowledge-sharing surrounding the subject of statelessness in order to create a cohesive network that can best defend the human rights of stateless persons. Our goal is also to cooperate with States in order to strengthen international protection mechanisms, and exchange information with our sister organizations around the world.

The origins of this collaborative project can be traced back to the UNHCR Annual Consultation with NGOs and the UNHCR-organized Statelessness Retreat starting in 2013. At these events, members of the European Network on Statelessness and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion discussed with future Red ANA members the benefits of working in regional coalitions and sharing similar experiences.

This first year of its existence Red ANA consolidated membership and defined its mode of operation, partly through its first Annual Regional Meeting and through Strategic Country Meetings. Furthermore, Red ANA began developing relationships with States and UN actors, including through the hosting of its First Annual Conference, as well as identifying key areas of work to be carried out over the coming years. Finally, in its first year, Red ANA engaged in capacity building through the hosting of multiple online seminars in the area of nationality and statelessness, and in information-sharing, through the means of an updated website, newsletters and an active listserv used for disseminating news and events.

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

Francisco Quintana  
Red ANA Co-founder

Red ANA's mandate and work falls within the framework of the UNHCR's Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years. The Global Action Plan, developed in consultation with States, civil society and international organizations, sets out a guiding framework made up of 10 actions that need to be taken to end statelessness within 10 years. The Plan includes actions to resolve existing situations of statelessness, prevent new cases of statelessness from emerging, and better identify and protect stateless persons.

Visit the web site: <http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong>



Red ANA's work also contributes to the implementation of the Brazil Plan of Action, which was adopted in December 2014 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees. Through it, 28 countries and three territories of Latin America and the Caribbean committed to uphold the highest protection standards for refugees, displaced and stateless persons. Chapter 6 of the Brazil Plan of Action in particular contains several strategic programs for eradicating statelessness in the region.

## Membership

In 2014, a group of organizations working on nationality and statelessness in the Americas joined together to form the Red ANA. Among these founding organizations were:

- Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
- Open Society Justice Initiative, part of the Open Society Foundations
- Canadian Center on Statelessness
- Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Diego Portales in Chile
- Centro para la Observación Migratoria y el Desarrollo Social en el Caribe (OBMICA)
- Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights

Red ANA membership now encompasses more than fifty more organizations from throughout the Americas, working on issues of nationality and statelessness.

The right to nationality is enshrined in both the 1948 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San Jose). However, the total number of States Parties to the UN Statelessness Conventions is still low. Out of 35 American States, only 19 are parties to the 1954 Convention, and only 16 States are parties to the 1961 Convention.



Children of “foreigners in transit” in Northern Chile  
Photo credit: Universidad Diego Portales. Clínica de Migrantes y Refugiados.

With the exception of the Dominican Republic, in which there is a major situation of statelessness, situations of statelessness are rare in the Americas, thanks to the generous and combined application of the principles of *jus soli* and *jus sanguinis* for the acquisition of nationality. Nevertheless, several obstacles remain in the prevention and eradication of statelessness in the Americas, and in the protection and naturalization of stateless persons. Under the nationality laws of Bahamas and Barbados, for instance, women are unable to confer their nationality to their children in the same manner as men. In Chile, around 3,000 children born to undocumented migrants were deprived of Chilean nationality between the years 2000 and 2014 and, despite changes in the government’s policies; the situation of most of these children has not yet been rectified. In the United States, persons who were rendered stateless following the dissolution of the Soviet Union find themselves in a legal limbo and are often subject to detention.

# Funding and Operational Management

For the year 2015, the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) was in charge of the coordination of the Red ANA and hosted the Red ANA Fellow. Funding for the Red ANA Fellow was divided between CEJIL and the UNHCR. Open Society Foundations provided funding for punctual projects carried out by the Red ANA.

In 2015, the Red ANA's Steering Committee was composed of Francisco Quintana from CEJIL, Jocelyn Kane from the Canadian Center on Statelessness, David Baluarte from Washington and Lee University, Delfina Lawson from the Universidad Diego Portales, Liliana Gamboa from Open Society Foundations.

Foundations and Wade McMullen from Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. Steering Committee members were responsible for the network's operational management and governance, and determined initial rules and procedures of the Red ANA, together with Red ANA Fellow Perri Ravon during fall 2015.



In Canada's last national household survey, 1690 persons identified themselves as stateless; moreover, amendments to the citizenship legislation, which came into force in June of 2015, created new national security grounds on which Canadian citizenship can be revoked. Finally, with the exception of Mexico and Costa Rica, countries in the region have not yet formally adopted statelessness determination procedures, which also facilitate the naturalization of stateless persons.

As a whole, statelessness is a problem that affects more than 200,000 people in the Americas, as a result of gaps in nationality laws, arbitrary deprivation of nationality, and restrictive administrative practices. The consequences are dire and represent serious violations of human rights; stateless persons are often unable to obtain identification documents, denied access to education and health care, and prevented from obtaining employment, among other obstacles.

## Annual Regional Meeting

The first regional meeting of the Red ANA took place in Costa Rica in June 2015 as part of a broader five day event organized by the UNHCR, entitled “The Brazil Plan of Action and the Role of Civil Society”. The first three days of this event, June 22nd to June 24th, were dedicated to the subject of statelessness in the Americas and the strengthening of Red ANA.

The regional meeting brought together Red ANA members from across the Americas, members of the European Network on Statelessness, as well as representatives of the UNHCR, the Organization of the American States and the Norwegian Refugee Council. The purpose of the meeting was to deepen members’ understanding of statelessness issues in the Americas, discuss how Red ANA will operate, and begin identifying Red ANA’s goals and strategies. The European Network on Statelessness was discussed as a form of inspiration for the Red ANA.

Participants agreed that the Red ANA will facilitate the implementation of the UNHCR Global Action Plan and the Brazil Plan of Action by serving as a centralized platform for three main purposes: (1) sharing information and best practices, (2) capacity-building and (3) advocacy initiatives.



First Annual Regional Meeting of Red ANA  
San Jose, Costa Rica, June 2015  
Photo Credit: Red ANA

## Annual Conference

Red ANA hosted its first annual conference on October 22, 2015 at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights entitled “Nationality and Statelessness in the Americas: Achievements and Challenges”. Speakers included the Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants of the Inter-American Commission, as well as representatives of the UNHCR and the Governments of Chile and Brazil.



First Annual Conference of the Red ANA  
Washington DC, October 2015  
Photo credit: Red ANA



# Strategic Country Meetings

Strategic country meetings allow Red ANA to consolidate country membership and identify country priorities in work on nationality and statelessness. In September 2015, Red ANA met with local organizations in the Dominican Republic to discuss priorities in the country and avenues for collaboration.



Red ANA Strategic Country Meeting  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, September 2015  
Photo credit: Red ANA

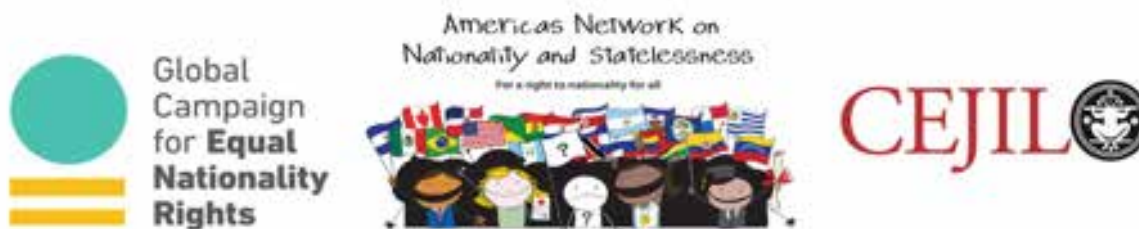
In October 2015, Red ANA held a US country meeting in Washington DC, which brought together US-based members of the network, as well as external academics and experts. The discussion addressed litigation surrounding the denial of birth certificates to children of undocumented persons in Texas and Red ANA's possible contribution to such litigation in the form of an amicus brief. Participants also engaged in brainstorming regarding a media campaign on the subject of nationality and statelessness in the US.



Red ANA Strategic Country Meeting  
Washington DC, US,  
October 2015  
Photo credit: Red ANA

# Webinars

During its first year, Red ANA hosted five webinars on the subject of nationality and statelessness in the Americas during its first year. These online presentations given by experts in the field are an essential capacity-building tool for the network. The topics covered were: statelessness in the Dominican Republic, nationality laws in Canada, the children of foreigners in transit in Chile, gender equality in nationality laws, and nationality and statelessness in the Bahamas.



## Red ANA Webinar Series Achieving Gender Equality in Nationality Laws : A Webinar with Catherine Harrington

**Catherine Harrington** is the Campaign Manager of the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, which mobilizes international action to end gender discrimination in nationality laws.

Gender Discrimination in nationality laws is one of the primary causes of statelessness worldwide. While this form of legal discrimination has been mostly eradicated from the Americas, a small number of countries persist in denying women and men equal rights to confer nationality. During this webinar, the Campaign Manager of the new Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights – of which the Red ANA is a coalition member – will provide an overview of the link between gender discrimination in nationality laws and statelessness, as well as provide an introduction to the Global Campaign. Opportunities for ANA members and the Global Campaign to collaborate to combat statelessness worldwide will also be discussed.

When: October 29, 2015  
2p.m. – 3p.m. EST  
Please RSVP with Perri Ravon:  
[pravon@cejil.org](mailto:pravon@cejil.org)  
You will receive a Webex invitation once you confirm your attendance.

# Public Events

Red ANA co-organized a regional seminar on the topic of nationality and statelessness at the Universidad Diego Portales on December 1st. Speakers at the event included the Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, representatives of the UNHCR and UNICEF, as well as member of the Red ANA Delfina Lawson.

# Participation in UNHCR Events on Nationality and Statelessness

Red ANA ensured that it was represented at UNHCR trainings and events in the area of nationality and statelessness in order to promote capacity-building within the network and encourage Red ANA visibility vis-a-vis State representatives. Red ANA representatives attended the UNHCR's Fourth Regional Course on Statelessness for States of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Curacao on the 17-19 of September 2015, and the UNHCR's Regional Meeting on the Development of Statelessness Determination Procedures held in Buenos Aires on the 15-16 of October 2015.

## Newsletter and Listserv

The Red ANA released two issues of a newsletter, which serves to keep members of the network and the broader community working on statelessness issues abreast of its activities. An active listserv is used by members to communicate information about events and developments occurring in the area of nationality and statelessness in the Americas.

### Red de las Américas sobre Nacionalidad y Apatridia

Por un derecho a la nacionalidad para tod@s



#### Boletín 2

Nos complace facilitar una actualización de las muchas actividades que la Red ANA ha llevado a cabo el mes pasado. Un año después de que el ACNUR lanzase la Campaña #IBelong para acabar con la apatridia, la Red ANA está compartiendo las buenas prácticas de los Estados en la región, dialogando con expertos, y realizando capacitaciones con sus miembros.

## Website

Red ANA released a new bilingual website in 2015, which serves to share research, reports, and events in the area of nationality and statelessness in the Americas. Over next year, Red ANA aims to have country pages with information, statistics, and resources covering different states of the Americas.

### Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness

ENGLISH ESPAÑOL INICIO RED ANA MARCO LEGAL LA SITUACIÓN HOY NOTICIAS E INFORMES CONTACTO

LEA el último Boletín de la Red ANA:

Versión en inglés

Versión en español

Red de las Américas sobre Nacionalidad y Apátrida  
Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness  
Réseau des Amériques sur la Nationalité et l'Apatrié  
Rede das Américas sobre Nacionalidade e Apátrida



El 4 noviembre 2014 marcó el 60<sup>o</sup> aniversario de la Convención sobre el Estatuto de los Apátridas de 1954. En conmemoración de este acontecimiento histórico, el ACNUR ha puesto en marcha una nueva campaña para erradicar la apatridia antes de 2024. Lea el informe de septiembre 2015 de la **Campaña #IBelong**.



Lea el Informe publicado por el ACNUR con motivo del primer aniversario de la Campaña #IBelong: **la urgente necesidad de poner fin a la niñez apátrida**.

## Videos

The Red ANA prepared two videos that will be released in 2016: a promotional video about the creation and the activities of the Red ANA, and a substantive video about the 10 actions of the UNHCR Global Action Plan and their implementation in the Americas.

## Research

Discussions with members, UNHCR representatives, and European counterparts during the first year laid the ground-work for the substantive research and drafting to be carried out in 2016.