

Contents

Contents	1
Country context (optional)	2
International and Regional Instruments	3
1954 Convention	3
1961 Convention	3
Other conventions	4
Stateless Population Data	7
Availability and sources	7
Stateless in detention data	9
Statelessness Determination and Status	11
Definition of a stateless person	11
Training	11
Existence of a dedicated SDP	12
Temporary protection for people fleeing war	12
Statelessness status without a clear identification mechanism (Group 3)	13
Detention	15
Immigration detention	15
Identification of statelessness	16
Procedural safeguards	18
Protections on release	19
Return and readmission agreements	20
Prevention and Reduction	21
Naturalisation	21
Stateless born on territory	22
Foundlings	24
Adoption	25
<i>Ius sanguinis</i>	25
Birth registration	26
Reducing <i>in situ</i> statelessness	31
Deprivation of nationality	32
Resources	35
Published judgments	35
Free legal assistance	35
Literature	35

Country context (optional)

Please use this field to provide any relevant contextual or background information about the country's law, policy, and practice, or the stateless population, to help contextualise the information in the survey (optional question).

International and Regional Instruments

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
IOB.1.a	1954 Convention	Is your country party to the 1954 Statelessness Convention?	UN Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954	Yes.	Decree on Ratification of the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and Final Act of the UN Conference on Legal Status of Stateless Persons, Official Gazette of the Republic of Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia - International Agreements, no. 9/59. Notification of succession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 12 March 2001: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtsg_no=V-3&chapter=5&Temp=mtmsg2&clang=en Serbia succeeded to the Convention on the basis of Art 60(4) of the Constitutional Charter of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, Official Gazette of Serbia and Montenegro, no. 1/2003: http://www.worldstatesmen.org/SerbMont_Const_2003.pdf
IOB.1.b		If yes, when was ratification/accession?		12 March 2001	Notification of succession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 12 March 2001: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtsg_no=V-3&chapter=5&Temp=mtmsg2&clang=en
IOB.1.c		Are there reservations in place? Please list them.	Best practice is no reservations. If there are, they should have little or no impact on the rights of stateless people.	No, there are no reservations in place.	UN Treaty Collection, Reservations and Declarations for Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetailsII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtsg_no=V-3&chapter=5&Temp=mtmsg2&clang=en#2
IOB.1.d		Does the Convention have direct effect?	Best practice is that the Convention has direct effect, though this may depend on the legal regime.	Yes.	Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 98/2006, 115/2021 and 16/2022, Art. 16(2) & 16(3): “Generally accepted rules of international law and ratified international treaties shall be an integral part of the legal system in the Republic of Serbia and applied directly.” Ratified international treaties must be compatible with the Constitution: https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ustav/2006/98/1/reg
IOB.2.a	1961 Convention	Is your country party to the 1961 Statelessness Convention?	UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961	Yes.	The Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia - International Agreements, no 8/2011: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/mu/skupstina/zakon/2011/8/10/reg
IOB.2.b		If yes, when was ratification/accession?		8 th of December, 2011	Notification of accession of the Republic of Serbia, 7 December 2011: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2011/CN.782.2011-Eng.pdf
IOB.2.c		Are there reservations in place? Please list them.	As above	No, there are no reservations in place.	UN Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtsg_no=V-4&chapter=5&clang=en
IOB.2.d		Does the Convention have direct effect?	As above	Yes	Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, Art. 16 (2) & 16(3): “Generally accepted rules of international law and ratified international treaties shall be an integral part of the legal system in the Republic of Serbia and applied directly.” Ratified international treaties must be in accordance with the Constitution: https://www.pravno-informacioni-

					sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ustav/2006/98/1/reg
IOB.3.a	Other conventions	State party to European Convention on Nationality 1997? Please list any reservations.	European Convention on Nationality, 1997	No	Council of Europe, Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 166 (European Convention on Nationality): http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/166/signatures?p_auth=DpBZwnVo
IOB.3.b		State Party to European Convention on Human Rights 1950? Please list any relevant reservations.	European Convention on Human Rights, 1950	Yes, Serbia is a State Party to ECHR. No reservations in force.	Law on Ratification of the European Convention on Human Rights, Official Gazette of Serbia and Montenegro – International Agreements, no. 9/2003, 5/2005, 7/2005 – correction and Official Gazette of Serbia, 12/2010: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-ratifikaciji-evropske-konvencije-ljudska-prava-osnovne-slobode.html Reservations and Declarations for Treaty No.005 (Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms): https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/005/declarations?p_auth=PnAxVuNA
IOB.3.c		State Party to Council of Europe Convention on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to State succession 2006? Please list any reservations.	Council of Europe Convention on the Avoidance of Statelessness in Relation to State Succession, 2006	No	Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 200 (Council of Europe Convention on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to state succession): https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/200/signatures?p_auth=PnAxVuNA
IOB.3.d		Bound by Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU Return Directive)? Please list any relevant reservations.	Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU Return Directive)	No.	Serbia is not a Member State of the European Union.
IOB.3.e		State Party to Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989? Please list any relevant reservations.	Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989	Yes, Serbia is a State Party to the Convention and there are no reservations in force.	Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no. 7/71, 15/90 and Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialistic Republic of Yugoslavia, no. 4/96 and 2/97: https://www.minlmpdd.gov.rs/doc/ljudska-prava/prava-deteta/1.1.zakon_o_ratifikaciji_konvencije_o_pravima_deteta.pdf Notification of succession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 12 March 2001: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtds_g_no=IV-11&chapter=4&clang=en Serbia succeeded to the Convention on the basis of Art 60(4) of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro. UN Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtds_g_no=IV-11&chapter=4&clang=en#EndDec
IOB.3.f		State Party to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966? Please list any relevant reservations.	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	Yes, Serbia is a State Party to the Covenant. There are no reservations in force.	Law on Ratification of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no. 7/71: https://platforma.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Zakon-o-ratifikaciji-Medjunarodnog-pakta-o-gradjanskim-i-politickim-pravima.pdf Notification of succession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 12 March 2001: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2001/CN.233.2001-Eng.pdf Serbia succeeded to the Covenant on the basis of Art 60(4) of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro. UN Treaty Collection:

					https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtid_g_no=IV-4&chapter=4&clang=en
IOB.3.g		State Party to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966? Please list any relevant reservations.	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966	Yes, Serbia is a State Party to the Covenant. There are no reservations in force.	Law on Ratification of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no. 7/71: https://www.minljmpdd.gov.rs/doc/ljudska-prava/medj-ug-icescr/zakon_o_ratifikaciji_medjunarodnog_pakta_o_ekonomskim_socijalnim_i_kulturnim_pravima.doc Notification of succession to the Covenant, 12 March 2001: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2001/CN.233.2001-Eng.pdf Serbia succeeded to the Covenant on the basis of Art 60(4) of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro. UN Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtid_g_no=IV-3&chapter=4&clang=en
IOB.3.h		State Party to Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979? Please list any relevant reservations.	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979 CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness	Yes, Serbia is a State Party to the Convention and there are no reservations in force.	Law on Ratification of Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no.11/81: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_ratifikaciji_konvencije_o_eliminisanju_svih_oblika_diskriminacije_zena.html Notification of succession to the Convention, 12 March 2001: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2001/CN.156.2001-Eng.pdf Serbia succeeded to the Convention on the basis of Art 60(4) of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro. UN Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtid_g_no=IV-8&chapter=4&clang=en
IOB.3.i		State Party to Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984? Please list any relevant reservations.	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984	Yes, Serbia is a State Party to the Convention and there are no reservations in force.	Law on Ratification of Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no.9/91: https://ravnopravnost.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/images_files_Konvencija%20protiv%20orture%20UN.pdf Notification of succession to the Convention, 12 March 2001: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2001/CN.238.2001-Eng.pdf Serbia succeeded to the Convention on the basis of Art 60(4) of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro. UN Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtid_g_no=IV-9&chapter=4&clang=en
IOB.3.j		State Party to International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1966? Please list any relevant reservations.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965	Yes, Serbia is a State Party to the Convention and there are no reservations in force.	Law on Ratification of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no.31/67: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_ratifikaciji_medjunarodne_konvencije_o_ukidanju_svih_oblika_rasne_diskriminacije.html Notification of succession to the Convention, 12 March 2001: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2001/CN.166.2001-Eng.pdf

					Serbia succeeded to the Convention on the basis of Art 60(4) of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro. UN Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtid_g_no=IV-2&chapter=4&clang=en#EndDec
IOB.3.k		State Party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families 1990? Please list any relevant reservations.	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, 1990	No. Convention has been signed but not ratified.	UN Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtid_g_no=IV-13&chapter=4&clang=en
IOB.3.l		State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006? Please list any relevant reservations.	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006	Yes, Serbia is a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and there are no reservations in force.	Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia - International Agreements, no 42/2009 UN Treaty Collection: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtid_g_no=IV-15&chapter=4&clang=en

Stateless Population Data

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
POP.1.a	Availability and sources	Does the State have a standardised 'stateless' category in its data collection systems (e.g. census)? Please list available figures for the total stateless population on the territory and describe how data is disaggregated (e.g. by sex, age, residence).	<p>CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 (2014): States parties should gather, analyse and make available sex-disaggregated statistical data and trends.</p> <p>Council of the European Union, Conclusions on Statelessness (2015): Recognise the importance of exchanging good practices among Member States concerning the collection of reliable data on stateless persons as well as the procedures for determining statelessness.</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations.</p> <p>ISI, The World's Stateless (2014): States should strengthen measures to count stateless persons on their territory.</p> <p>International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS) (endorsed by UN Statistical Commission in 2023): States should use standardised definition of statelessness and consistent indicators for collecting statelessness data.</p>	<p>There is a category for statelessness in the Census in Serbia, which was last conducted in 2011. According to this data, around 99% of the population are Serbian nationals; a total of 0.62% are foreign nationals; and 0.08% are without nationality. In numbers, a total of 5951 declared themselves to be 'persons without nationality' in 2011. Of these, 5,764 were born in ex-Yugoslav countries, and 187 were born in other countries. However, it cannot be concluded that all of them were stateless, because it is possible that some of them were nationals by law but were facing administrative difficulties certifying their nationality.</p> <p>The Census conducted in 2022 also collected data about the number of stateless people (the category "without nationality"). Data are classified by country of birth and place of residence, but not by gender and age. According to the 2022 Census, 99.5% of the population are Serbian nationals (93.5% have only the Serbian nationality, while about 6% of the population have dual nationality) and about 0.5% of the population has only the nationality of another country. In total, 675 (0.01%) are persons without nationality. Of these, 308 were born in Serbia, 269 in ex-Yugoslav countries, and 98 in other countries.</p> <p>The establishment of the procedure for determining the date and place of birth (in 2012), as well as the work of NGOs that continuously provided free legal assistance, are likely to have contributed to the decrease in the number of stateless people since 2011.</p>	<p>Official Census 2011 results, Book 9, Migrations: http://pod2.stat.gov.rs/ObjavljenePublikacije/Popis2011/Knjiga%209_Migracije-Migrations.pdf</p> <p>Official Census 2022 results, Book 7, Migrations: https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2023/Pdf/G20234010.pdf</p>
POP.1.b		Do public authorities define data categories that may overlap (e.g. unknown nationality) or where stateless people might be more highly represented (e.g. Palestinian)? Please explain and provide any available figures.	As above	No. The only data available is from the census (as above). There is no reliable indirect source of statistics on stateless persons. Since 2015 some data exists about country of origin of refugees within UNHCR and relevant State bodies (e.g. in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, 86, 205, 43, 11 and 40 persons from Palestine, respectively, expressed the intention to seek asylum in Serbia, and so did one person from Western Sahara in 2020). In 2022, there was one stateless person seeking asylum in Serbia. However, data is not systematised and no conclusions or predictions about stateless persons can be drawn from that.	<p>Official Census 2011 results, Book 9, Migrations: http://pod2.stat.gov.rs/ObjavljenePublikacije/Popis2011/Knjiga%209_Migracije-Migrations.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2018, Belgrade 2018, p. 14: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Right-to-Asylum-2018.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2019, Belgrade 2020, p. 14: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Right-to-Asylum-in-Serbia-2019.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2020, Belgrade 2020, p. 16: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Right-to-Asylum-in-Serbia-2020.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2021, Belgrade 2021, p. 17: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Right-to-Asylum-in-the-Republic-of-Serbia-2021.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2022, Belgrade 2023, p. 16-17:</p>

					https://www.bgcentar.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Right-to-Asylum-in-RS-2022-NBS-1.pdf
POP.1.c		What is UNHCR’s estimate for the stateless/at risk of statelessness population and what is the source for this estimate?	As above	<p>UNHCR Refugee Data Finder records 2,397 stateless people in Serbia and Kosovo as of mid-2023.</p> <p>UNHCR has carried out three surveys on people at risk of statelessness in Serbia: in 2010, 2015 and in 2020. The overall objective of the surveys was to obtain reliable and representative data on statelessness of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (RAE) in Serbia since statelessness and lack of documents in Serbia mainly affects RAE population. According to the data in those three surveys, the share of persons without birth registration, without confirmed nationality and without ID cards among the RAE population who live in 'Roma' settlements has dropped from 6.8% in 2010 to 3.9% in 2015 and to 2.9 % in 2020. According to the 2020 survey: 253 persons who live in 'Roma' settlements are not registered in birth registries, 275 do not have confirmed nationality, 1,032 do not have ID card and 2,072 do not have residence registration.</p> <p>During 2023, a mapping exercise on the number of people at risk of statelessness was carried out by Praxis in the selected cities and municipalities where it is assumed that most people at risk of statelessness live. On that occasion, 431 people who do not have Serbian nationality confirmed were identified. Of these, 38 people have the nationality of another country, but their status in Serbia has not been regulated. 383 people do not have registered their fact of birth in the birth registers in Serbia. These data refer to specific identified persons and are not estimates based on extrapolation. Bearing this in mind, as well as the fact that the mapping was not carried out on the entire territory of Serbia, it can be safely concluded that the number of people at risk of statelessness is significantly higher.</p>	<p>UNHCR Refugee Data Finder: unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=4wRNngk</p> <p>UNHCR, Persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia, June 2011: http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4fd1bb408.pdf</p> <p>UNHCR, Persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia, Progress report 2010-2015, June 2016: https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/57bd436b4.pdf</p> <p>UNHCR and CeSID, Persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia: overview of current situation and the way forward, November 2020: https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/615efd094.pdf</p> <p>Praxis, Mapiranje lica u riziku od apatridije u Srbiji, November 2023: https://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/Mapiranje_lica_u_riziku_od_apatridije_u_Srbiji_ANALIZA.pdf</p>
POP.1.d		Have there been any surveys or mapping studies to estimate the stateless population in the country?	As above	Aside from the UNHCR surveys (see 1c above), no other mapping studies have been done.	
POP.1.e		Are there any other sources of estimates for the stateless population not covered by the above? Please list sources and figures.	As above	There is data on the number of children who are not registered in birth registry books (and therefore at risk of statelessness) from UNICEF surveys carried out as a part of the global program Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey – MICS. According to the 2019 survey, the births of 98.5% of children under five years-old in Roma settlements have been registered. According to the survey carried out in late 2014 among internally displaced Roma in Serbia, 5% of Roma IDP households have one member not registered in the birth registries, and less than 1% of domiciled Roma households. 9% of IDP Roma and 6% of domiciled Roma have a member of their household who cannot obtain a nationality certificate.	<p>Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF, Serbia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019 and Serbia Roma Settlements Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019, Survey Findings Report, Belgrade, Serbia: https://www.unicef.org/serbia/media/16076/file/MICS%206%20Multiple%20Indicator%20Cluster%20Survey.pdf</p> <p>UNHCR and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia, Assessment of the needs of internally displaced Roma in Serbia, May 2015, p. 41-42 and 73: https://www.unhcr.org/rs/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2021/04/08-Assessment-of-the-Needs-of-Internally-Displaced-Roma-in-Serbia.pdf</p>
POP.1.f		Are there issues with the reliability of data or indications that the stateless population may be over/under reported? If yes, please describe.	As above	Yes. The data related to stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness are not completely reliable in Serbia. Statelessness related problems are primarily connected to the lack of birth registration. The exact number of those who are not registered has never been determined, which was the main reason for UNHCR to	<p>Praxis casework/practice.</p> <p>UNHCR and CeSID, Persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia: overview of current situation and the way forward, p.6, November 2020: https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/615efd094.pdf</p>

				<p>conduct the three abovementioned surveys (see Answer 1c). However, these surveys are limited too. Firstly, there is no precise number for the Roma population in Serbia. The surveys were conducted in Roma settlements only. Therefore, the results are an estimation. Census data is based only on self-declaration, without any further questions on statelessness. It is likely that the stateless population in Serbia is underreported. The UNHCR surveys showed that the number of people at risk of statelessness significantly dropped to 275 persons whose Serbian nationality is not confirmed. On the other hand, Praxis as a legal assistance provider still identifies new cases of those not registered or with undetermined nationality which leads us to conclude that the number could be higher.</p>	
POP.1.g		<p>Please provide any available figures for stateless refugees and/or asylum-seekers and clarify if the State also counts these groups in figures for the stateless population (i.e. to avoid under/over-reporting).</p>	<p>As above. EASO/EUAA, Practical guide on registration (2021): States should collect information from applicants for international protection about their nationality(ies) and potential lack of nationality. When registering families, it is important to collect this data for each family member.</p>	<p>There is no available data. Statistics on asylum seekers contain only data on the country of origin. There is no data about stateless asylum seekers, or their number is unrealistically low. Out of 4,181 persons who expressed the intention to seek asylum in 2022, only one was recorded as stateless (but there were 40 persons from Palestine;). In 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 there were no stateless persons among the asylum seekers. There were no persons from ‘unknown countries’ either, but there were 86 (in 2018), 205 (in 2019), 43 (in 2020), 11 (in 2021) and 40 (in 2022) persons from Palestine. In 2017, among refused asylum applications, two applications were filed by stateless persons</p>	<p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2017, Belgrade 2018, p. 21 & 56: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Right-to-Asylum-in-the-Republic-of-Serbia-2017.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2018, Belgrade 2018, p. 14: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Right-to-Asylum-2018.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2019, Belgrade 2020, p. 14: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Right-to-Asylum-in-Serbia-2019.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2020, Belgrade 2020, p. 16: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Right-to-Asylum-in-Serbia-2020.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2021, Belgrade 2021, p. 17: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Right-to-Asylum-in-the-Republic-of-Serbia-2021.pdf</p> <p>The Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia 2022, Belgrade 2021, p. 16: https://www.bgcentar.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Pravo-na-azil-u-RS-2022-NBS.pdf</p>
POP.2.a	Stateless in detention data	<p>Does the State record and publish figures on stateless people held in immigration detention? If yes, please provide.</p>	<p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations. CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 (2014): State parties should gather, analyse and make available sex-disaggregated statistical data and trends. ISI, The World’s Stateless (2014): States should strengthen measures to count stateless persons on their territory. Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): States must identify stateless persons within their territory or subject to their jurisdiction as a first step towards ensuring the protection of their human rights.</p>	<p>In 2018 there was 1 person in immigration detention whose nationality was not determined, in 2019 there were 2 such persons and in 2020 there was 1 person. During 2021 and 2022, there were no stateless people or people of unknown citizenship placed in immigration detention (Shelter for Foreigners).</p>	<p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5. No. 07-38/21, issued on 12. February 2021. Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5. 3. No. 07-120/23, issued on 8. August 2023.</p>

			<p>Council of the European Union, Conclusions on Statelessness (2015): Recognise the importance of exchanging good practices among Member States concerning the collection of reliable data on stateless persons as well as the procedures for determining statelessness.</p>		
POP.2.b		<p>Does the State record and publish figures on people released from immigration detention due to un-removability? If yes, please provide.</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>In 2016, 205 unremovable persons were released from immigration detention (Shelter for Foreigners) and they were mainly from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria and some from Palestine, Morocco, Eritrea, Congo, Bangladesh, Western Sahara, Cuba, Vietnam. In 2017, 77 unremovable persons were released from immigration detention from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Morocco. In 2016, the average length of detention was 18 days and in 2017 it was 15 days. According to the response from the Border Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior from 2017, these persons were released under Article 50(4) of the Law on Foreigners which was in force at that time, which prescribed: “A foreigner with a verified identity shall be released from the Shelter, if it is reasonably expected that s/he shall not be able to be expelled forcibly”.</p> <p>This provision no longer exists in the Law on Foreigners adopted in 2018. The law does not mention the impossibility of removal/expulsion as a basis for release from detention. However, according to the response of the Ministry of the Interior from 2021, stateless persons or persons who cannot be removed will be released from immigration detention According to the response of the Ministry of the Interior from 2023, there were 40 foreigners in 2021 and 94 foreigners in 2022 who were, due to the impossibility of carrying out forced removal, ordered to leave Serbia on their own after receiving a decision on dismissal from the detention centre. They were mainly nationals of Syria and Afghanistan</p>	<p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior (to freedom of information request) 03/8/6/2 no. 26-338/17, 31 May 2017.</p> <p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5. No. 07-38/21 issued on 12 February 2021.</p> <p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5. 3. No. 07-120/23, issued on 8. August 2023.</p>

Statelessness Determination and Status

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
SDS.1.a	Definition of a stateless person	Is there a definition of a stateless person in national law? Do the definition and exclusion provisions align with the 1954 Convention? Please provide details.	1954 Convention : Articles 1(1) & 1(2).	Yes. The Law on Foreigners contains the definition of a stateless person. The definition is not completely aligned with the 1954 Convention since it provides that a “Stateless person means a person who is not considered as a national by any country under its national legislation” instead of “under the operation of its law”, as in the 1954 Convention. However, the official translation of the Convention in Serbian language contains the same formulation as the Law on Foreigners - “under its national legislation”.	Law on Foreigners, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no.24/18, 31/19 and 62/23, Art 3 (1.9): https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/24/1/reg
SDS.2.a	Training	Is there training to inform different public authorities about statelessness? If yes, please provide details (e.g. who provides training to whom/how often?)	UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion No. 106 (LVII) (2006) : Requests UNHCR to actively disseminate information and, where appropriate, train government counterparts on appropriate mechanisms for identifying, recording, and granting a status to stateless persons.	Since 2014, the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ombudsperson and UNHCR Serbia, have held a series of training sessions for police officers, registrars, deputy registrars and staff of the social welfare centres, on registration in the register of births and issuing documents to persons who are not registered and who do not have identity documents. Another series of trainings for the same actors, with the additional participation of the free legal aid service officers, were held in 2021. The Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNHCR have published a handbook for parliamentarians on “Good practices in nationality laws for the prevention and reduction of statelessness”.	Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue , Report 3/19 on Implementation of Action Plan for the Realization of Rights of National Minorities, pp. 14-16: https://www.minljpdd.gov.rs/doc/nacionalne-manjine/AP-lzvestaj3-2019.doc Ministry of Justice, Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 in IV quarter of 2021, p.252: https://www.mpravde.gov.rs/files/Report%20on%20AP23%20implementation%20in%20IV%20quarter%20of%202021.docx Good practices in nationality laws for the prevention and reduction of statelessness, Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 29: https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/handbooks/2018-11/good-practices-in-nationality-laws-prevention-and-reduction-statelessness
SDS.2.b		Is there training for judges and lawyers on statelessness? If yes, please provide details (e.g. provider, frequency).	UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020) : Officials who may be in contact with stateless persons need to be trained to identify potential applicants for statelessness status and refer them to appropriate channels. UNHCR, Geneva Conclusions (2010) : It is recommended that States provide specialised training on nationality laws and practices, international standards and statelessness to officials responsible for making statelessness determinations.	Two cycles of training seminars for judges and judicial associates were held in 2013-2014 on the implementation of the new provision of the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure, organised by UNHCR and Praxis. The training covered only risk of statelessness.	Praxis, 26 May 2014, Completed Second Cycle of Seminars for Judges and Judicial Associates about Implementation of the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure: http://praxis.rs/index.php/en/education-training/item/766-completed-second-cycle-of-seminars-for-judges-and-judicial-associates-about-implementation-of-the-law-on-non-contentious-procedure Praxis, 29 March 2013, Seminar for Judges and Judicial Associates Held in Nis on the Implementation of the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure – Determination of Time and Place of Birth: http://praxis.rs/index.php/en/education-training/item/550-seminar-for-judges-and-judicial-associates-held-in-nis-on-the-implementation-of-the-law-on-non-contentious-procedure-%E2%80%93-determination-of-time-and-place-of-birth

<p>SDS.3.a</p>	<p>Existence of a dedicated SDP</p>	<p>Which of the following best describes the situation in your country? Choose only one and then proceed to question indicated.</p> <p>1. There is a dedicated statelessness determination procedure (SDP) established in law, administrative guidance, or judicial procedure, leading to a dedicated statelessness status (answer Question SDS.3.b. and proceed to Question 4a).</p> <p>2. There is no dedicated SDP leading to a dedicated statelessness status, but there are other procedures in which statelessness can be identified (e.g. partial SDPs with no status/rights attached, residence permit or naturalisation applications, refugee status determination, ad hoc procedures, etc.), or other routes through which stateless people could regularise their stay and/or access their rights (answer Question SDS.3.b. and proceed to Question 10a).</p> <p>3. There is a dedicated statelessness status but no formal procedure for determining this (answer Question SDS.3.b. and proceed to Question 15a).</p>	<p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): It is implicit in the 1954 Convention that States must identify stateless persons to provide them appropriate treatment to comply with their Convention commitments.</p> <p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): Establishing a statelessness determination procedure is the most efficient means for States Parties to identify beneficiaries of the Convention.</p>	<p>Group 3 - There is a dedicated statelessness status, but no formal procedure exists for determining this.</p>	
<p>SDS.3.b</p>	<p>Temporary protection for people fleeing war</p>	<p>Does the State guarantee access to the territory to everyone fleeing Ukraine, regardless of nationality, documentation, or residence status? Does the State offer a temporary form of protection to stateless people and people at risk of statelessness from Ukraine (through the EU Temporary Protection Directive or another mechanism)? Is temporary protection accessible to all stateless persons who have fled Ukraine, regardless of their documentation status? If the State grants temporary protection more broadly than required by the EU TPD, please state so. Please describe any other barriers for stateless people or people at risk of statelessness in accessing the territory or receiving temporary protection, asylum, or other protection.</p>	<p>EU Temporary Protection Directive (2001) EU Council Implementing Decision (2022) establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine & European Commission, Operational guidelines ENS, Briefings on access to protection for stateless people fleeing Ukraine: Everyone fleeing the war in Ukraine should be guaranteed access to the territory. European countries must extend temporary forms of protection to all stateless people and those with undetermined nationality who cannot meet current eligibility requirements, due to their statelessness or documentation status. Lack of documentation should not prevent access to international protection or other forms of protection.</p>	<p>In March 2022, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Decision on providing temporary protection in the Republic of Serbia to displaced persons coming from Ukraine. According to a Government decision in March 2024 on extending the duration of temporary protection, temporary protection can be granted for a period of one year, and it can be further extended for one year, as long as the grounds for providing temporary protection continue to exist.</p> <p>Temporary protection in the Republic of Serbia is granted to displaced persons who come from Ukraine, i.e. who were forced to leave Ukraine as their country of origin or habitual residence or were evacuated from Ukraine, and who cannot return to permanent and safe living conditions due to the current situation that prevails in that country. Stateless people are eligible for temporary protection if they have been granted asylum or equivalent national protection in Ukraine. The Decision does not specify what the term 'equivalent national protection in Ukraine' means.</p> <p>The decision also grants temporary protection to foreign nationals who have a valid permanent residence or temporary residence permit in Ukraine and who cannot return to their country of origin under permanent and long-term circumstances, but stateless persons are not eligible on this basis.</p> <p>There is no explicit provision guaranteeing entry in Serbia to undocumented people.</p>	<p>The Decision on providing temporary protection in the Republic of Serbia to displaced persons coming from Ukraine, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 36/22: https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/odluka/2022/36/1/reg (SR)</p> <p>Decision amending the Decision on providing temporary protection in the Republic of Serbia to displaced persons coming from Ukraine, Official Gazette of the RS No. 21/23: https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/odluka/2022/36/1/reg Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5. 3. 2. No. 26-619/23, issued on 11. August 2023.</p>

				<p>Until the end of July 2023, temporary protection was granted for 1,352 people. Of these, there were 1,302 nationals of Ukraine, 29 of Russia, 6 of Uzbekistan, 5 of Armenia, 3 of Libya, 2 of Belarus, 2 of China, and one person from several other countries. There were no stateless people or people of unidentified nationality among the people granted temporary protection. The request for approval of temporary protection was rejected in one case, but lack of personal documents was not a reason for rejection. According to the Police, no applicant was undocumented.</p>	
SDS.15.a	Statelessness status without a clear identification mechanism (Group 3)	<p>Is there a statelessness status even if no formal procedure exists for determining this? If yes, how are stateless people identified and what rights are attached to the status. Please state whether stateless people can access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to reside - travel document - work - healthcare - social security - education - housing - family reunification - right to vote <p>[Section complete, proceed to DET]</p>	<p>1954 Convention UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): The status granted to a stateless person in a State Party must reflect international standards. It is recommended that States grant recognised stateless people a residence permit valid for at least two years, although longer permits, such as five years, are preferable in the interests of stability. Permits should be renewable. States parties are encouraged to facilitate the reunification of those with recognised statelessness status with their spouses and dependents. The right to work, access to healthcare and social assistance, as well as a travel document must accompany a residence permit.</p>	<p>There is no prescribed formal procedure to identify stateless persons. According to data from UNHCR in Serbia, based on information from the Serbian Ministry of Interior from 2011, a total of 155 persons have been determined to have the status of stateless persons in Serbia in an ad hoc procedure carried out by the Ministry of Interior. According to unofficial data, all of these people were of Albanian origin. No recent cases of statelessness determination are known and the procedure for determination of status is unclear. Of those whose statelessness status was determined, 146 were granted a permanent residence permit, and 9, a temporary residence permit. In accordance with the Law on Foreigners, all were issued with travel documents.</p> <p>The Law on Foreigners contains the definition of a stateless person and prescribes that a travel document (valid for two years) for stateless persons be issued by a competent authority. The Law on Foreigners also prescribes that the 1954 Convention should be applied to stateless individuals, if this is more favourable to them.</p> <p>The Law on Foreigners allows temporary residence for foreigners on the basis of family reunification (foreigners are all persons who are not Serbian nationals), but strict conditions must be met, including the possession of passports or identity card, if it is prescribed that it is possible to enter Serbia with an identity card, means of subsistence and health insurance. The law also recognises temporary residence for humanitarian reasons and prescribes that it is necessary to meet the mentioned conditions, but it also allows for the possibility to approve humanitarian residence even when those conditions have not been met for “legitimate reasons”.</p> <p>Some of the few laws that explicitly guarantee certain rights to stateless persons are the Labour Law that guarantees the right to work to stateless persons and the Law on Social Protection that prescribes that stateless persons can also be beneficiaries of social protection. The Law on Health Care provides the right to health care to stateless persons who are permanently or temporarily residing in the Republic of Serbia (if they fulfil other prescribed conditions). Under the Law on Fundamentals of the Education System, stateless persons shall be entitled to education (primary and secondary) under the same conditions and in the same manner as prescribed for Serbian nationals. The Law on the</p>	<p>Unpublished information given on multiple occasions by UNHCR representatives and the Ministry of Interior at conferences and other events.</p> <p>Law on Foreigners, Art. 3 (1.1); Art. 3 (1.9); Art. 2(2); Art. 43; Art. 55; Art. 61; Art. 96</p> <p>Law on social protection, Art. 41(2.8); Art 41(3.5)</p> <p>Law on Health Care, Art. 3(1)</p> <p>Law on Fundamentals of the Education System, Art. 3(5)</p> <p>Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination Art. 2(1.1-2)</p> <p>Art 4 and 31, Law on Free Legal Aid, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 87/18: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-besplatnoj-pravnoj-pomoci.html (SR)</p> <p>Labour law, Art. 29;</p>

				<p>Prohibition of Discrimination guarantees to stateless persons the right to initiate legal action for protection against discrimination. According to the Law on Free Legal Aid, stateless persons have the right to free legal aid under the same conditions as nationals of Serbia. Facilitated naturalisation of stateless persons has not been envisaged. There is a risk that stateless persons would not be able to exercise these rights in practice, because of the lack of a formal statelessness determination procedure. Stateless persons do not have the right to vote in any elections.</p>	
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Detention

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
DET.1.a	Immigration detention	<p>Please provide a brief overview of whether immigration detention powers are provided for in law and applied in practice, and whether alternatives to detention are considered.</p> <p>Please provide the legal source(s) and, if available, refer to other publications and sources of information about the law, policy, and practice on immigration detention.</p>	<p>ICCPR: Article 9 ECHR: Article 5 EU Return Directive: Article 15 UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Detention is a measure of last resort and can only be justified where other less invasive or coercive measures have been considered and found insufficient. UN General Assembly (2009): Calls upon all States to adopt alternative measures to detention. HRC, Report of the Special Rapporteur (2012): The obligation to always consider alternatives before resorting to detention should be established by law. International Detention Coalition (2015): Immigration detention should be used only as a last resort in exceptional cases after all other options have been shown to be inadequate in the individual case.</p>	<p>As Immigration detention occurs in situations of illegal entry and/or in cases of deportation and extradition, it is mainly regulated by the Law on Foreigners, Law on Border Control, and Law on Police.</p> <p>The Law on Foreigners prescribes that a foreigner may be detained in the premises of the competent authority, in order to establish his identity or the legality of his stay on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, or in order to be escorted to a border crossing point. Stay in the detention centre may be ordered with the purpose to prepare the return or execute forced removal, if provisions related to mandatory stay of a foreigner cannot apply efficiently. The Law contains an assumption that the provisions related to mandatory stay cannot be applied efficiently in cases when, among others, the foreigner does not possess a travel document and if his/her identity cannot be established.</p> <p>Domestic law does not allow immigration detention for purposes other than those allowed under ECHR 5(1)(f), but there is data suggesting that in practice, a number of people were referred to the Shelter for Foreigners in 2015 and 2016, pending their testimony in criminal proceedings against people reasonably suspected of having committed the crime of illegal state border crossing and human smuggling or the crime of human trafficking. As testimony in criminal proceedings is not laid down as a ground for depriving foreigners of their liberty and their confinement in the Shelter for Foreigners, the need to establish their identity under the Law on Foreigners was quoted as the ground for depriving them of liberty. Testimony in criminal proceedings is not one of the grounds for detention in law in Serbia, so these people were deprived of liberty arbitrarily and in contravention of the safeguards under Article 5 ECHR. The period of their detention in the Shelter ranged from several days to several weeks, depending on the efficiency of public prosecutors and the time they needed to hear their testimonies.</p> <p>It is established in the Law on Foreigners (Art. 93) that the competent authority may issue a decision imposing a travel restriction order requiring compulsory stay when there is risk that the foreigner will not be available to the competent authority to execute forced removal, and placing the person in the detention centre would not be a proportionate measure, or in the case that the foreigner has been issued a decision on delaying forced removal. A foreigner subject to compulsory stay is obliged to remain at a particular address and to regularly report to the nearest competent authority. A time limit of one year is prescribed by law and may be extended by the same period of time. The right to appeal is guaranteed. The law does not contain provisions on conditions and manner of termination of compulsory stay and, therefore, does not provide for the possibility of a competent body annulling the decision in case the reasons for compulsory stay cease to exist. Therefore, a decision on ordering compulsory stay is not subject to periodic review. The law also prescribes the</p>	<p>Law on Foreigners, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no.24/18, 31/19 and 62/23: https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/24/1</p> <p>Law on Border Control, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no.24/18 of 26 march 2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-granicnoj-kontroli.html (SR) (on entry into force of the Law on Border Control, the Law on State Border Protection ceased to have effect)</p> <p>Law on Police, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 6/16, 24/18 and 87/18 https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_policiji.html (SR)</p> <p>Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Human Rights in Serbia 2015, Law, Practice and International Human Rights Standards, Belgrade 2016, p. 111-112: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Human-Rights-in-Serbia-2015.pdf</p> <p>Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Human Rights in Serbia 2016, Law, Practice and International Human Rights Standards, Belgrade 2017, p. 156: http://azil.rs/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Human-Rights-in-Serbia-2016.pdf</p> <p>The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, Art. 78, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia. no.24/18: https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/6050d9c24.pdf</p> <p>AIDA Country Report: Serbia, 2022 Update, p.183: https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/AIDA-SR_2022update.pdf</p>

				<p>possibility of temporarily seizing travel and other documents, travel tickets, as well as material possessions.</p> <p>The Law on Foreigners explicitly prescribes (Art. 93 & 87(2)) that the mandatory stay in the detention centre will be applied only if the provision related to mandatory stay in a particular place cannot be efficiently applied.</p> <p>The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, under the provision which foresees measures for restriction of movement, prescribes that the stay at the detention centre may be imposed if it has been established that the other measures (i.e. alternatives to detention) could not achieve the effect of the restriction of movement. However, the AIDA Country Report for Serbia suggests that alternatives to detention of asylum seekers "have never been taken in practice as of the end of 2022. In general, Serbia can still be considered a country that does not resort to systematic detention of asylum seekers or other foreigners that might be in need of international protection."</p>	
DET.1.b		Does a proposed country of removal need to be identified before a person is detained for removal? Please describe the situation in law and in practice.	<p>ICCPR: Repeated attempts to expel a person to a country that refuses to admit them could amount to inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 7).</p> <p>ECtHR, Auad v. Bulgaria (2011): In cases of detention with a view to deportation, lack of clarity as to the destination country could hamper effective control of the authorities' diligence in handling the deportation.</p> <p>EU Return Directive: Any detention shall only be maintained as long as removal arrangements are in progress and executed with due diligence.</p>	<p>According to the response from Border Police Directorate (Ministry of Interior) from 2017, a country of origin or a proposed country of removal is identified before a person is detained for the purpose of removal. However, in 2023, Border Police Directorate responded that a proposed country of removal is identified after a person is detained. The law does not regulate this issue. A proposed country of removal is not always identified for persons whose stay is cancelled and who are ordered to leave the country. For example, the Police Department in Subotica issued a decision by which a foreigner was obliged to leave Serbia within 10 days, without any determination as to where he could go, and, in fact, there was no country that could admit him. In this case, the country of removal was not identified for the purpose of removal, but neither was he ever detained for the purpose of removal.</p>	<p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03/8/61 No. GZ 06-124/17 issued on 15 May 2017.</p> <p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5.3 No. 07-120/23 issued on 8 August 2023.</p> <p>Ministry of Interior, Police Directorate, Police Department in Subotica, Decision no. 26-30-330/2014 from 26/03/2014, on file with author.</p>
DET.1.c		Is there a clear obligation on authorities to release a person when there is no reasonable prospect of removal? Please describe the situation in law and in practice.	<p>EU Return Directive: When it appears that a reasonable prospect of removal no longer exists, detention ceases to be justified and the person concerned shall be released immediately.</p> <p>UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2018): When the obstacle for identifying or removal of persons in an irregular situation from the territory is not attributable to them, the detainee must be released to avoid potentially indefinite detention from occurring, which would be arbitrary.</p> <p>ECtHR, Auad v. Bulgaria (2011)</p> <p>ECtHR, Mikolenko v. Estonia (2009)</p>	<p>Article 88 of the Law on Foreigners stipulates that during the stay in the detention centre it must be sufficiently evident that the foreigner can be forcibly removed, but Article 89, which contains the reasons for release from the detention centre, does not explicitly state that the foreigner will be released if there is no reasonable prospect of removal.</p> <p>According to the response of the Ministry of the Interior from 2021, in practice stateless persons or persons who cannot be removed or for whom there is no reasonable prospect of removal, will be released from immigration detention.</p>	<p>Law on Foreigners, Arts. 88(1) and 89.</p> <p>https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/24/1</p> <p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5. No. 07-38/21, issued on 12. February 2021.</p>
DET.2.a	Identification of statelessness	Is statelessness juridically relevant in decisions to detain? Please describe how (risk of) statelessness is identified and whether referral to an SDP is possible from detention.	<p>ECtHR, Auad v. Bulgaria (2011)</p> <p>ECtHR, Mikolenko v. Estonia (2009): Detention may only be justified as long as deportation proceedings are being conducted with due diligence.</p> <p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Routine detention of individuals seeking protection on the grounds of statelessness is arbitrary.</p> <p>CMW, General comment No. 5 (2021): States should avoid detaining migrants who have specific needs, which includes stateless persons. States should also be aware that stateless persons find themselves in a vulnerable situation, given that consular assistance and protection are unavailable due to their status.</p>	<p>The Law on Foreigners does not contain a provision that would explicitly connect the status of a stateless person with the decision on detention. However, as stateless persons may have difficulties proving their identity or due to not possessing travel documents, some provisions may be relevant. The Law on Foreigners prescribes that forced removal may be delayed if the foreigner's identity has not been established, through no fault of their own. The delay of forced removal shall be granted for a period of up to one year and may be extended (the Law does not limit the time for which the delay may be extended). The Rulebook on executing forced removal prescribes that a forced removal may be executed only after the identity of the foreigner has been established. However, the Law prescribes that a foreigner avoiding or</p>	<p>Law on Foreigners, Arts. 84(1.1), 3(1.1), 85(1) & 87(2.2 & 4)</p> <p>https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/24/1</p> <p>Rulebook on detailed conditions and the manner of executing forced removal of foreigners from the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 69/18 of 14.09.2018, Art. 2(1): http://www.mup.gov.rs/wps/wcm/connect/725117ee-4dff-44db-89e5-60ea79da03ee/lat_Pravilnik+o+bl%C5%BEim+uslovima+i+na%C4%8Dinu+sprovo%C4%91enja+prinudnog+udaljenja+stranca.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mpkxS7H (SR)</p>

			Statelessness determination procedures are essential, given that the lack of a country of nationality to be returned to leaves stateless persons at higher risk of arbitrary and indefinite detention. Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012) : States must identify stateless persons within their territory or subject to their jurisdiction as a first step towards ensuring the protection of their human rights. ICJ, Migration and International Human Rights Law (2014) : The detention of stateless persons can never be justified when there is no active or realistic progress towards transfer to another State.	interfering with the preparations for return or forced removal may be one of the reasons for ordering stay in the detention centre. At the same time, the law prescribes that inability to establish the identity of the foreigner or not possessing a travel document constitute interference with the removal. The application of these provisions would effectively undo the positive changes on postponement of removal. There is no formal SDP procedure and so no referral to an SDP within the detention regime.	
DET.2.b		Is there a definition of vulnerability in law? If yes, does it explicitly include statelessness? If not, please note whether statelessness is considered to be a factor increasing vulnerability.	PICUM, Preventing and Addressing Vulnerabilities in Immigration Enforcement Policies (2021) : Statelessness should be explicitly included in the definition of vulnerability. Vulnerability should always be determined and assessed on an individual basis.	The Law on foreigners contains the definition of "particularly vulnerable persons", but does not include stateless persons among the categories of persons considered to be particularly vulnerable.	Law on Foreigners, Art. 3 (1.24) https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/24/1
DET.2.c		Are individual vulnerability assessments carried out before a decision to detain (or soon after)?	ENS, Protecting Stateless Persons From Arbitrary Detention (2015) : Arbitrary and disproportionately lengthy detention can ensue when the particular vulnerabilities of stateless people are not addressed. EU Return Directive : Article 16(3) EU Return Handbook (2017) : Attention should be paid to the specific situation of stateless persons. Council of the European Union, Guidelines to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by LGBTI persons (2013) : European entities should assess the situation of LGBTI persons in detention. PICUM, Preventing and Addressing Vulnerabilities in Immigration Enforcement Policies (2021) : There should be a clear legal obligation to screen and assess individuals' vulnerability before a decision to detain is taken and before individuals are placed into situations of deprivation or restriction of liberty.	Under the article that prescribes principles in the return procedure, the Law on Foreigners generally states that the competent authority shall take into consideration the specific situation of vulnerable persons, family and health status of the person returning, as well as the best interest of minors. The law also prescribes that, when undertaking police measures and actions against foreigners, the competent authority must act in accordance with the regulations governing the position of people with disabilities and international treaties. It also prescribes that during the return procedure, actions shall be in accordance with the family unity principle, and that an unaccompanied minor must be provided with adequate assistance from a children and young person's social protection service. The law also prescribes that forced removal may be delayed if serious difficulties emerge relating to the psychological, physical or health status of the foreigner, as well as that a foreigner who has health or other special needs shall be provided with other suitable accommodation.	Law on Foreigners, Arts. 75, 84(1.3), & 87(5) https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/24/1
DET.2.d		Are stateless people detained in practice?	As above.	In 2016, 2017, 2021 and 2022, stateless persons (and persons with undetermined or unknown nationality) were not detained in practice. In 2018 there was one person in immigration detention whose nationality was not determined, in 2019 there were two such persons and in 2020 there was one person. According to the response of the Border Police Directorate of the Ministry of Interior from 2017, the persons mentioned in POP.2.b. were released under Article 50(4) of the Law on Foreigners which prescribes: "A foreigner with a verified identity shall be released from the Shelter, if it is reasonably expected that s/he shall not be able to be expelled forcibly". This provision no longer exists in the Law on Foreigners. Since the Border Police Directorate answered that there were no stateless persons in detention in that period, these persons were apparently unremovable because of some other reasons, such as the non-refoulement principle, and not because of their statelessness. According to the response of the Ministry of the Interior from 2021, in practice stateless persons or persons who cannot be removed will be released from immigration detention, but there is no data on the number of persons released on this basis. Available reports suggest that deportation is not conducted for persons originating from countries without diplomatic mission in Serbia.	Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03/8/61 No. GZ 06-124/17 from 15 May 2017 Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5. No. 07-38/21, issued on 12. February 2021. Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5.3 No. 07-120/23 issued on 8 August 2023 APC/Asylum Protection Center, Nadležnosti I Praksa U Azilnom Sistemu Srbije (Competence and Practice in the Asylum System in Serbia), p. 22: http://www.apc-cza.org/images/publikacije/Annex%201-Responsibilities%20brochure.pdf (SR)

<p>DET.3.a</p>	<p>Procedural safeguards</p>	<p>Are there adequate procedural safeguards in place for individuals in immigration detention (e.g. maximum period of detention, automatic release at the end, decisions in writing, regular periodic reviews, judicial oversight, legal aid, etc.)?</p>	<p>ICCPR: Article 9(4) ECHR: Article 5(4) EU Return Directive: Articles 12, 13 and 15(5) HRC, Report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2010): A maximum period of detention must be established by law and upon expiry the detainee must be automatically released. CMW, General comment No. 5 (2021): States parties are obligated to adopt legislative and other measures, allocate adequate resources, and provide relevant training to comply with the CMW. There should be a maximum period for immigration detention established in legislation, with automatic release at the end of that period, and which precludes re-detention. States should also be aware that stateless persons find themselves in a vulnerable situation, given that consular assistance and protection are unavailable due to their status. UNHCR, Detention Guidelines (2012): To guard against arbitrariness, maximum periods of detention should be set in national law. UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Judicial oversight of detention is always necessary and detained individuals need to have access to legal representation, including free counselling for those without means. UNGA, Body of Principles (1988): Anyone who is arrested shall be informed at the time of the reason for his arrest. Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Stateless detainees shall receive their order of detention in writing and in a language they understand. To avoid arbitrariness, detention should be subject to automatic, regular and periodic review throughout the period of detention, before a judicial body independent of the detaining authorities. Detention should always be for the shortest time possible. International Commission of Jurists, Migration and International Human Rights Law: A Practitioners' Guide (2014): The authorities shall ensure that sufficient information is available to detained persons in a language they understand on the nature of their detention and reasons for it. ECtHR, Kim v. Russia (2014): The purpose of Article 5(4) ECHR is to guarantee to persons who are detained the right to judicial supervision of the lawfulness of the measure.</p>	<p>There is a maximum time limit set in law (Art. 88) - the total duration of residence in the detention centre shall not exceed 180 days.</p> <p>A stay in the Shelter (detention centre) is determined based on a written decree by the Ministry of Interior. The Law on Foreigners explicitly stipulates (Art. 87(6)) that a foreigner who is ordered to stay in the detention centre, shall be as soon as possible, in writing, in a language they understand, or can be rightfully assumed to understand, informed of the reasons for ordering stay. In practice, detainees have been found not to be aware of the reasons for their detention prior to the introduction of the law. For example, during a visit to the Shelter for Foreigners of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture, 10 Syrian nationals reported not knowing the reason for their referral to the Shelter (that they had been placed there pending forced removal to the countries from where they had entered Serbia illegally).</p> <p>According to the Art 89(3) of the Law on foreigners, a detainee should be released automatically after the period of detention has expired.</p> <p>Periodic reviews are not prescribed by law. The law only prescribes (Art. 88) that the total duration of residence in the detention centre shall not exceed 90 days, which may be extended for a maximum of an additional 90 days if the foreigner's identity has still not been established or if the foreigner is deliberately interfering with forced removal.</p> <p>The Law on Foreigners does not permit an appeal against the decision to place someone in the detention centre or the decision to extend their stay. However, an administrative dispute may be initiated (once only), although it may not delay the enforcement of the decision. There is still no relevant practice.</p> <p>The Law on Free Legal Aid does not specifically prescribe the right to free legal aid in relation to detention.</p>	<p>Law on Foreigners, Arts. 88 (2.4), 89(3), 87(6) and 90. https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/24/1 Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Right to Asylum in the Republic of Serbia, 2014, p. 26: http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/eng-lat/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Right-to-Asylum-in-the-Republic-of-Serbia-2014.pdf</p> <p>Art. 26 (1.7) Law on Administrative Disputes, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 111/09: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_upravnim_sporovima.html (SR)</p> <p>Art 4, Law on Free Legal Aid, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 87/18: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-besplatnoj-pravnoj-pomoci.html (SR)</p>
<p>DET.3.b</p>		<p>Are detainees provided with information on their rights, contact details of legal advice and support providers, and guidance on how to access an SDP?</p>	<p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Detaining authorities are urged to provide stateless detainees with a handbook in a language and terms they understand, containing information on all their rights and entitlements, contact details of organisations which are mandated to protect them, NGOs and visiting groups and advice on how to challenge the legality of their detention and their treatment as detainees.</p>	<p>The Rulebook on house rules and rules of stay in the detention centre prescribes that the house rules and rules of stay are placed on the noticeboard in the detention centre and are available to all foreigners. They must be translated into English, French and Arabic and, if necessary, into other languages as well. On arrival in the centre, a foreigner is given the rules of stay in a language they understand or may be justifiably assumed to understand. If the person has additional language support needs the rules of stay will be communicated to them verbally in a language they understand, or with the assistance of an interpreter. The Rulebook also prescribes that, when arriving in the detention centre, a person</p>	<p>Arts 2, 4, 16, 14, 21, 22 & 31 of the Rulebook on house rules and rules of stay in the detention centre (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 42/2018 as of 01.06.2018.): http://www.mup.gov.rs/wps/wcm/connect/d1be9d45-5e91-4f5e-a2e5-cf92649dc9cf/lat_Pravilnik+o+kucnom+redu+i+pravilima+boravka+u+prihvatalistu+za+strance.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mpkzFF4 (SR)</p>

				<p>must be acquainted with their right to contact a lawyer, members of their family and representatives of the relevant diplomatic and consular representation. It is also prescribed that someone who believes that they are subject to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the detention centre by police officers or other detainees, they may address the Ombudsperson or other relevant national, international or non-governmental organisations. The ombudsperson and other stated organisations must be enabled to visit the detention centre without impediments.</p> <p>The Rulebook also guarantees other rights, such as the right to primary healthcare and basic psychological support, to practice a religion, to private visits, and to make a complaint to the manager of the centre to draw attention to poor conditions.</p>	
DET.3.c		<p>Are there guidelines in place governing the process of re-documentation and ascertaining entitlement to nationality for the purpose of removal?</p>	<p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): The inability of a stateless person to cooperate with removal proceedings should not be treated as non-cooperation.</p> <p>ENS, Protecting Stateless Persons From Arbitrary Detention (2015): The detaining state should have rules in place that govern the process of re-documentation and/ or ascertaining entitlement to nationality.</p>	<p>The Rulebook on conditions and manner of conducting removal of a foreigner from the Republic of Serbia (2018) prescribes that, when conducting the removal, a foreigner must possess a valid travel document or other ID for crossing the state border, unless it has been prescribed otherwise by an international agreement. If a foreigner does not possess such document, police officers from the Shelter for Foreigners (detention centre) shall obtain a travel document from the consular section of the state whose national the foreigner is from, so that the foreigner could return to the country of origin. If the travel document cannot be obtained, a travel document for foreigners may be issued for the purpose of conducting forced removal, provided that the police officers of the competent body or the detention centre obtain consent from the country of origin of the foreigner being removed that they will be received in the country of origin with such travel document.</p>	<p>Art. 6, Rulebook on conditions and manner of conducting removal of a foreigner from the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 69/18: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/ministarstva/pravilnik/2018/69/1/reg (SR)</p>
DET.4.a	<p>Protections on release</p>	<p>Are people released from detention issued with identification documents (including confirmation of their statelessness status) and protected from re-detention?</p>	<p>1954 Convention: Article 27</p> <p>UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014): Being undocumented cannot be used as a general justification for detention.</p> <p>CMW, General comment No. 5 (2021): There should be a maximum period for immigration detention established in legislation, with automatic release at the end of that period, and which precludes re-detention. Statelessness determination procedures are essential, given that the lack of a country of nationality to be returned to leaves stateless persons at higher risk of arbitrary and indefinite detention. Detaining stateless persons when there is no real prospect of removal would render the detention arbitrary, and the detained stateless person must therefore be immediately released.</p> <p>ENS, Protecting Stateless Persons From Arbitrary Detention (2015): State parties to the 1954 Convention have an obligation to provide stay rights to stateless people who have been released from detention.</p> <p>Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012): Released stateless detainees should be provided with appropriate documentation and stay rights suitable to their situation.</p>	<p>The Law on Foreigners prescribes the possibility of delaying the removal of individuals whose identity cannot be determined through no fault of their own. If removal is delayed, a temporary ID card may be issued entitling the holder to urgent medical assistance and access to primary education for minors. According to the responses of the Ministry of the Interior, in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 no temporary ID card was issued on this basis.</p> <p>The law also allows people whose removal has been delayed for at least a year to register for temporary stay on humanitarian grounds, irrespective of whether they meet the conditions otherwise required for temporary residence.</p>	<p>Law on Foreigners, Arts. 84(1.1, 4 & 6) & 61</p> <p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5. No. 07-38/21, issued on 12. February 2021.</p> <p>Response from Border Police Directorate of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5.3 No. 07-120/23 issued on 8 August 2023.</p>
DET.4.b		<p>If the purpose of detention cannot be fulfilled and the person is released, what legal status and rights are provided to them in law?</p>	<p>CJEU, Kadzoev, C-357/09 PPU (2009): After the maximum period of detention has expired, the person must be released immediately. A lack of valid</p>	<p>The Law on Foreigners prescribes that a foreigner whose forced removal has been delayed for at least one year may be granted temporary stay on humanitarian grounds. If the person does not have a valid travel document, they will be issued with an</p>	<p>Law on Foreigners, Arts. 61(1.2), 102(2) & 84(1.1, 4 & 6)</p>

			documentation or inability to support themselves should not be a deterrent to release. Equal Rights Trust, Guidelines (2012) : Released stateless detainees should be provided with appropriate documentation and stay rights suitable to their situation.	temporary identity card for foreigners. They may then access rights and services under the same conditions as other foreigners, in accordance with separate laws and international treaties. A foreigner whose forced removal has been delayed, and to whom temporary stay on humanitarian grounds has not been granted shall be issued a temporary identity card for foreigners and will have access to urgent medical assistance, and minors shall access primary education.	
DET.5.a	Return and readmission agreements	Is statelessness considered a juridically relevant fact in any bilateral readmission and/or return agreements?	UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014) : Efforts to secure admission or readmission may be justified but these need to take place subsequent to a determination of statelessness. UNCRC, MKAH v Switzerland, no 95/2019 (2021) : The State in which a stateless child applies for international protection has an obligation under Article 7 CRC to consider whether, if the child was returned to another country, their right to a nationality would be fulfilled (as well as other rights under the CRC).	Yes. According to the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Serbia on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation, Serbia shall readmit a stateless person who holds, or at the time of entry held, a valid visa or residence permit issued by Serbia, or who has illegally and directly entered the territory of the Member States after having stayed on, or transited through the territory of Serbia (except in two prescribed cases). Serbia shall also readmit nationals of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia who have acquired no other nationality and whose place of birth and place of permanent residence on 27 April 1992, was in the territory of Serbia. This issue has been defined in the same or very similar way in readmission agreements with other states, such as Norway, Switzerland, Russia, and Albania. Readmission agreements do not provide that the child's right to a nationality, and their enjoyment of other fundamental rights in the country of return, are taken into consideration before deciding on return.	Law on ratification of the Agreement signed between the Republic of Serbia and European Community on readmission of persons residing without authorization, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia – International Agreements no. 103/2007, Art.3: http://demo.paragraf.rs/demo/combined/Old/t/t2007_11/t11_01_31.htm (SR) Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Republic of Serbia and the Kingdom of Norway on readmission of persons residing without authorization, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia – International Agreements no. 19/2010, Art.3: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/reg/viewAct/2ca3a182-845f-4f29-b803-162983963e09 (SR) Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Republic of Serbia and the Swiss Confederacy on readmission of persons residing without authorization, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia – International Agreements no.19/2010, Art.3: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/reg/viewAct/04a4e7eb-e0d4-4567-a267-ae65729c9746 (SR) Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on readmission of persons residing without authorization, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia – International Agreements no. 7/2011, Art.3: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/reg/viewAct/600f9486-ebab-4e6d-ada2-2c74417d40fa (SR) Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Russian Federation on readmission, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia – International Agreements. 3/2015, Art.3: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/reg/viewAct/8805aa44-e02b-43dd-9b52-9ac3096fb64f (SR)
DET.5.b		Are you aware of cases of stateless people being returned under such agreements?		Yes, Praxis had a case of a stateless person who was returned to Serbia under a readmission agreement. Praxis often comes across the cases of returnees who are not registered in the birth registry and/or do not have their nationality determined.	Ministry of Interior, Police Directorate, Police Department in Subotica, Decision no. 26-30-330/2014 from 26/03/2014, on file with author. Praxis casework/practice.

Prevention and Reduction

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
PRS.1.a	Naturalisation	In what timeframe do stateless people who are residing on the territory acquire the right to apply for naturalisation, and how does this compare to others with a foreign nationality?	<p>1954 Convention: Article 32</p> <p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): It is recommended that States Parties facilitate, as far as possible, the naturalisation of stateless persons.</p> <p>CoE Committee of Ministers, Recommendation No. R (99) 18 (1999): Each State should facilitate the acquisition of its nationality by stateless persons lawfully and habitually resident on its territory.</p> <p>ENS (2013): The main benchmark is if there is any preferential treatment for stateless people compared to the general rules applied to those with a foreign nationality.</p>	<p>The Law on Nationality does not prescribe special conditions for naturalisation or a facilitated naturalisation procedure for stateless persons. In the absence of facilitated naturalisation for stateless persons, only general provisions on naturalisation may be relevant for them.</p> <p>Article 14 of the Law on Nationality prescribes that Serbian nationality may be acquired by a foreigner who has been granted permanent residence, is over 18 and has legal capacity, whose permanent residence has been registered on the territory of Serbia for at least three years prior to the submission of the application and who submits a statement confirming that they consider Serbia as their own state.</p> <p>In addition, Article 16 of the Law on Nationality prescribes that a person born on the territory of the Republic of Serbia may acquire Serbian nationality if they resided on the territory of the Republic of Serbia for at least two years without interruption prior to submitting the application and if they submit a written statement confirming that they consider Serbia their own State. Although it is not explicitly stated in the law, in practice only persons over 18 years old can acquire nationality on the basis of Article 16.</p> <p>In general, a child under the age of 18 could be naturalised if parents have acquired nationality by naturalisation (Article 20 of the Law on Nationality).</p>	<p>Articles 14, 16, 20, 38 and 41, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)</p>
PRS.1.b		Are there requirements relating to 'good character' or previous criminal convictions that could prevent some stateless people from naturalising? If yes, please describe.	<p>CoE Committee of Ministers, Recommendation No. R (99) 18 (1999): States should ensure that offences, when relevant for the decision concerning the acquisition of nationality, do not unreasonably prevent stateless persons seeking the nationality of a state.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Interior decides on applications for acquisition of nationality. The Ministry of Interior may reject an application even though all conditions prescribed by the law have been fulfilled, if it considers that according to the interests of the Republic of Serbia the application for acquisition or cessation of nationality should be rejected.</p> <p>Additionally, Article 71 (1. 2-3) of the Law on Foreigners stipulates that an application for permanent residence shall be refused to a foreigner who has been sentenced to an enforceable prison sentence with a duration of over six months for a criminal offence prosecuted ex officio, or if proceedings have been initiated for such an offence, or if required for reasons of safeguarding the security of the Republic of Serbia and its nationals. Therefore, even though there are no requirements regarding previous convictions in the Law on Nationality, these circumstances are indirectly of relevance for naturalisation - since permanent residence is a precondition for (ordinary) naturalisation.</p>	<p>Articles 14, 16, 38 and 41, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)</p> <p>Article 71 (1. 2-3). Law on Foreigners</p>
PRS.1.c		Are there exemptions for stateless people from any nationality or integration test, language, income or fee requirements for naturalisation? Please describe the requirements and cost of the procedure for stateless adults and children, and any direct or indirect barriers to naturalisation	<p>1954 Convention: Article 32</p> <p>UNHCR, Good Practices Papers – Action 6 (2020): It is recommended that States Parties facilitate, as far as possible, the naturalisation of stateless persons.</p> <p>CoE Committee of Ministers, Recommendation No. R (99) 18 (1999): Each State should facilitate the acquisition of its nationality by stateless persons lawfully and habitually resident on its territory.</p> <p>UNHCR, Background Note on Discrimination in</p>	<p>The Law on Nationality does not prescribe a facilitated naturalisation procedure for stateless persons, except that stateless persons are not obliged to submit proof that they have been or will be released from foreign nationality. In the absence of facilitated naturalisation for stateless persons, only general provisions on naturalisation may be relevant for them.</p> <p>The fee for naturalisation amounts to 22,920 RSD (196 EUR). Displaced persons pay a lower fee of 1,270 RSD (11 EUR). If family</p>	<p>Articles 14, 16, 38 and 41, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)</p> <p>Tariff no 39, Law on Republic Administrative Fees, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no.43/2003-9, 51/2003-14 (correction), 61/2005-60, 101/2005-28 (other law), 5/2009-7, 54/2009-24,</p>

		caused by discriminatory laws, policies, or practices.	Nationality Laws and Statelessness (2021) : States should remove or amend discriminatory legal provisions, rules, policies, or practices that directly or indirectly act as barriers to naturalisation.	members (spouses, minor children, and unemployed children up to 26 years of age) acquire nationality at the same time, only one fee is paid. As a condition for approval of permanent residence, it is necessary to provide proof of possession of means of subsistence and health insurance. People with limited financial means can hardly meet the conditions related to the possession of means of subsistence, health insurance and the fee for naturalisation, which may represent a barrier to naturalisation for some people.	50/2011-7, 93/2012-21, 65/2013-3 (other law), 83/2015-6, 112/2015-16, 113/2017-192, 3/2018-3 (correction), 95/2018-238, 38/2019-75: 86/2019-11, 90/2019-3 (correction), 144/2020, 138/2022, 54/2023) http://pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2003/43/2/reg (SR) Article 70 (1. 2-3)). Law on Foreigners
PRS.2.a	Stateless born on territory	Is there a provision in law for stateless children born on the territory to acquire nationality? [If yes, continue to PRS2b. If no, proceed to PRS2i]	1961 Convention : Article 1 ECN : Article 2 CRC : Article 7 Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC : States should strengthen measures to grant nationality to children born in their territory in situations where they would otherwise be stateless. HRC, CCPR General comment No. 17 (1989) : States are required to adopt every appropriate measure, both internally and in cooperation with other States, to ensure that every child has a nationality when he is born. European Parliament resolution (2018) : The EU and its MS should ensure that childhood statelessness is adequately addressed in national laws in full compliance with Article 7 CRC.	Yes.	Art. 13(1), Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)
PRS.2.b		Is the provision for otherwise stateless children to acquire nationality automatic or non-automatic (i.e. by application)?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : The 1961 Convention provides Contracting States with two alternatives for granting nationality to otherwise stateless children born in their territory: either automatic acquisition upon birth or upon application. ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015) : The 1961 Convention and the European Convention on Nationality oblige the conferral of nationality to otherwise stateless children born on the territory. The optimal method is to grant nationality automatically at birth.	According to the Law on Nationality, children are considered to be nationals from birth and acquire nationality automatically. However, in practice, in order to acquire nationality in these cases, one should submit an appropriate request, and nationality is not acquired by operation of law but on the basis of a decision of the competent body.	Art. 13, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR) Praxis, Analysis of Practical Application of the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure – Determining the Date and Place of Birth, p. 24 (note 45): http://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/Analysis_of_Practical_Application_of_the_Law_on_Non-Contentious_Procedure_-_Determining_the_Date_and_Place_of_Birth.pdf Prevention of statelessness at birth: adequate nationality law but inconsistent implementation, ENS blog by Milijana Trifkovic, Legal Analyst, Praxis, 30 July 2013: https://www.statelessness.eu/updates/blog/prevention-statelessness-birth-adequate-nationality-law-inconsistent-implementation Decision of the Ministry of Interior 03/10 No. 204-2-248/2013 from 14 March 2013, on file with author. Letter of the Ministry of Interior sent to Praxis on 15 March 2013, 13/10 No. 204-159/13-R, on file with author. Praxis, Problems Related to Acquiring Citizenship: https://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/Problems_Related_to_Acquiring_Citizenship.pdf

PRS.2.c	Are parents provided with information about their child's nationality rights and relevant procedures, including where the child would otherwise be stateless or has undetermined nationality?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Contracting States are obliged to provide detailed information to parents of children who would otherwise be stateless or of undetermined nationality about the possibility of acquiring the nationality, how to apply and about the conditions which must be fulfilled. If the child concerned can acquire the nationality of a parent immediately after birth, States that opt to not grant nationality to children in these circumstances must assist parents in initiating the relevant procedure with the authorities of their State or States of nationality.	No - neither the obligation to inform parents exists in the regulations, nor does it happen in practice.	Praxis casework/practice.
PRS.2.d	Is it a requirement that the parents are also stateless for the otherwise stateless child to acquire nationality?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : The test is not an inquiry into whether a child's parents are stateless. ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015) : Only allowing access to nationality for stateless children whose parents are stateless fails to account for the circumstance where the parents hold a nationality but are unable to pass this on.	No. Both parents must be either unknown, or stateless, or of unknown nationality or the child must be stateless.	Art. 13(1), Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)
PRS.2.e	Are stateless children required to prove they cannot access another nationality to acquire the nationality of the country of birth? If yes, please describe how this is determined in practice.	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : A Contracting State cannot avoid the obligations to grant its nationality to a person who would otherwise be stateless based on its own interpretation of another State's nationality laws. The burden of proof must be shared between the claimant and the authorities, but in the case of children the State assumes a greater share of the burden of proof. Decision-makers must consider Articles 3 & 7 CRC and adopt an appropriate standard of proof. Special procedural considerations to address the acute challenges faced by children in communicating basic facts about their nationality should be respected.	According to the Regulation on the manner of registration of the fact of nationality, a document should be provided proving that parents are of unknown nationality, stateless, or that the child is stateless for the child to acquire nationality by birth, but there are no detailed guidelines referring to the procedure and necessary evidence. The Law on Foreigners prescribes that the Ministry of Interior is only authorised to issue a travel document to a stateless person, but it remains unclear how the status of stateless person is determined and what evidence a person should enclose for issuance of the travel document. Furthermore, it has not been prescribed how one can obtain a document proving that nationality is unknown, what the procedure of determination of unknown nationality entails, what evidence should be enclosed for that purpose. From Praxis' practice and according to data obtained from the Ministry of Interior, it can be concluded that in the procedure before this body (for those children who acquire nationality by birth in the territory of the state, but whose fact of nationality has not been registered in birth registry book) the conditions relating to necessary evidence are interpreted more flexibly. Thus, as a piece of evidence proving that the parents do not have nationality of the state they were born in or that they are of unknown nationality, a certificate proving that they are not registered in the nationality records of that state could be used. In case of a child, it would be sufficient to enclose a birth certificate and a certificate/evidence that the child has not been registered in nationality records.	Art. 10, Regulations on the Manner of Registration of the Fact of Nationality in the Birth Registry Book, Forms of Keeping Records on Decisions on Acquisition and Termination of Nationality and Form of Nationality Certificate, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 22/2005, 84/2005, 121/2007, 69/2010, 55/2017 and 82/2018: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/ministarstva/pravilnik/2005/22/1/reg (SR) Information derived from casework, including the decisions of the Ministry of Interior in individual cases (decision of the Ministry of Interior, 03/10 No. 204-2-248/2013 from 14 March 2013, on file with author).
PRS.2.f	Is a stateless child born on the territory required to fulfil a period of residence to be granted nationality? If yes, please specify length and if this must be legal residence.	1961 Convention : Article 1(2) UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : States may stipulate that an otherwise stateless individual born in its territory fulfils a period of 'habitual residence' (understood as stable, factual residence, not legal or formal residence) not exceeding five years preceding an application nor ten years in all. CRC : Articles 3 & 7	There are no conditions related to residence for the child.	Art. 13, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)

			Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the Netherlands (2015) : Recommends the State party ensure that all stateless children born in its territory, irrespective of residency status, have access to nationality without any conditions. ECN : Article 6(2)(b)		
PRS.2.g		Are the parents of a stateless child required to fulfil a period of residence for the child to be granted nationality? If yes, please specify length and if this must be legal residence.	Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on Czech Republic (2011) : The outcome of an application by the parents of a child born on the territory should not prejudice the right of the child to acquire the nationality of the State. ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015) : Demanding that the child or their parents reside lawfully on the territory is prohibited by the 1961 Convention.	No.	Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)
PRS.2.h		What are the age limits and fees (if any) for making an application for nationality for a stateless person born on the territory?	1961 Convention : Article 1(2) UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Contracting States need to accept applications lodged at a time beginning not later than the age of 18 and ending not earlier than the age of 21. Where Contracting States grant nationality to individuals who would otherwise be stateless upon application, they are encouraged to accept such applications free of charge. ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015) : Closing the window of opportunity to apply for a nationality has the effect of leaving it in the hands of parents to take the necessary steps to secure a nationality for their child.	The age limit for making an application is 18 years. The deadline until which one should submit the request is not prescribed by the law – since the acquisition of nationality is automatic – but, in practice, the competent body derives it from the legal definition of “child”, resulting in the standpoint of the competent body that after 18 years of age otherwise stateless children born in Serbia can no longer acquire nationality under Article 13 of the Law on Nationality. If the procedure for determining of nationality is initiated before the age of 18, the fee is 1,270 RSD (11 EUR). After 18 years of age the only option for acquiring nationality is naturalisation, and the fee for this procedure is 22,920 RSD (196 EUR). There is no fee exemption for an otherwise stateless child.	See PRS.2. b.
PRS.2.i		Are there specific provisions to protect the right to a nationality of children born to refugees?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Where the nationality of the parents can be acquired through a registration or other procedure, this will be impossible owing to the very nature of refugee status which precludes refugee parents from contacting their consular authorities.	No.	
PRS.3.a	Foundlings	Are foundlings granted nationality automatically by law? If not automatic, please describe the procedure.	1961 Convention : Article 2 ECN : Article 6(1)(b)	Foundlings are automatically granted nationality by law.	Art. 13, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)
PRS.3.b		Is there an age limit (e.g. ‘new-born’ or ‘infant’) in law or practice specifying when a foundling would qualify for nationality?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : At a minimum, the safeguard should apply to all young children who are not yet able to communicate information about the identity of their parents or their place of birth.	The age limit is 18 years-old. The competent body derives this from the legal definition of a “child”, i.e. person under 18 years-old. (see PRS.2.h.)	Information derived from casework, including the decisions of the Ministry of Interior in individual cases (decision of the Ministry of Interior, 03/10 No. 204-2-248/2013 from 14 March 2013, on file with author). Letter of the Ministry of Interior sent to Praxis on 15 March 2013, 13/10 No. 204-159/13-R, on file with author. See PRS.2.b.
PRS.3.c		Can nationality be withdrawn from foundlings if this leads to statelessness?	UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Nationality acquired by foundlings may only be lost if it is proven that the child possesses another nationality.	No. It should be taken that foundlings are protected from statelessness if their parents are later identified. If their parents are later discovered and it is proven that they were foreign nationals, the the Law on Nationality only stipulates that a child	Arts. 13, 28 & 34, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018:

				can cease to be a national not that they can lose nationality automatically. A child can cease to be a national only at the request of the parents. The law does not explicitly state that a parent's action cannot result in statelessness, as it does in the case of adoption, renunciation and release of adult nationals and loss of nationality acquired by fraud. However, having in mind the spirit of the law (which in all other cases of loss of nationality aims to prevent statelessness and in some cases of loss of nationality offers more protection than required by international standards) it should be taken that Article 28(1.6) applies to children as well, even though it is not explicitly stated. If parents request release where it may result in a child's statelessness, there is an additional safeguard in Article 34, which prescribes that a person whose nationality of the Republic of Serbia was terminated by release or renunciation at the request of their parents, can be readmitted to nationality if they apply for readmission, if they are 18 years-old and not deprived of legal capacity, and if they submit a written statement.	https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)
PRS.4.a	Adoption	Where a child national is adopted by foreign parent(s), does the child lose their original nationality before the new nationality is acquired?	1961 Convention : Article 5 ENS, No Child Should Be Stateless (2015) : Children may be exposed to a (temporary) risk of statelessness during the adoption process due to the nationality law of the child's country of origin.	No.	Arts. 30 & 31, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)
PRS.4.b		Does a foreign child adopted by national parents acquire nationality? Please specify any age limits and/or risk of statelessness during the adoption process.	ECN : Article 6(4)(d) Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations on Switzerland (2015) : Ensure that the child is not stateless or discriminated against during the waiting period between arrival and formal adoption.	Yes. Nationality of the Republic of Serbia is acquired by descent also by an adopted child-foreigner, under the same conditions for acquiring nationality by descent. Domestic regulations do not condition adoption on the potential adoptee's loss of foreign nationality, and do not regulate acquisition of Serbian nationality prior to the potential adoption. Serbia is party to the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, while recognition of a foreign decision on adoption from a country which is not party to the Convention is not complicated and burdened by formalities, so there is no risk of protracted uncertainty with regard to the status of the child (in case the child lost foreign nationality by being adopted). Intercountry adoption is not frequent in Serbia. On average, there are about 10 adoptions per year where the adoptee is a foreigner. Registration of the adopted child in the nationality records of Serbia is conducted upon request. If the child is under 18, the request is submitted by parents, while the adopted child over 18 submits the request in person, not later than 23 years of age.	Art. 11, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR) The Hague Conventions, Protocols and Principles: https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=69 Art. 94 of the Law on Resolving Conflict of Laws with Regulations of Other Countries, , "Official Gazette of the SFRY, no. 43/82 and 72/82, Official Gazette of SRY no. 46/96 and Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 46/2006 : https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_resavanju_sukoba_zakona_sa_propisima_drugih_zemalja.html (SR) Nevena Vučković-Šahović: Intercountry Adoption and Serbia, Legal records, Faculty of Law, Union University, 2011, page 135: http://www.pravnifakultet.rs/images/2012/zapisi-1-2011/Nevena_Vuckovic-Sahovic_MEDJUNARODNO_USVOJENJE_I_SRBIA.pdf (SR)
PRS.5.a	Ius sanguinis	Can children born to nationals abroad acquire nationality by descent (<i>ius sanguinis</i>) in general and/or if they would otherwise be stateless?	1961 Convention : Article 4 UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012) : Where a child who would otherwise be stateless is born to parents of another Contracting State but does not acquire the nationality of the State of birth responsibility falls to the Contracting State of the parents to grant its nationality to the child.	Yes, children born outside the country to a parent who is Serbian can access nationality by descent (<i>ius sanguinis</i>). There are some conditions regarding registration, but these conditions are not discriminatory. A child born abroad shall acquire the nationality of Serbia by the force of the law (<i>ex lege</i>) if at least one of the parents is a Serbian national while the other parent is unknown or of unknown nationality or stateless. A child born abroad shall acquire Serbian nationality by descent if one of the parents is a national at the time of the child's birth and the other parent is a foreign national, and if the parent who is a Serbian national registers the	Arts. 7(1)&(3), Art. 9(1) & Art. 10, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)

				child as a national of the Republic of Serbia before they turn 18 with the competent diplomatic or consular office of the Republic of Serbia and submits a request for registering the child into nationality records. An adult whose one parent is a national of the Republic of Serbia (and the other parent is a foreign national) may also acquire Serbian nationality, even if the parent who is a Serbian national failed to register the child with the diplomatic or consular office. The person who fulfils the conditions to acquire nationality on this ground, may submit a request for registration in the nationality records of Serbia until the age of 23.	
PRS.5.b		Are there any discriminatory conditions in law and/or practice for the acquisition of nationality by descent (e.g. differential treatment of children born out of wedlock, rights of father/mother/same-sex parents to confer nationality, etc.)?	<p>ECtHR, Genovese v. Malta (2011): The state must ensure that the right to nationality is secured without discrimination.</p> <p>CEDAW, Gen. Rec. 32 (2014): Requires States parties to ensure that women and men have equal rights to confer their nationality to their children and that any obstacles to practical implementation of such laws are removed.</p> <p>UNHCR, Background Note on Gender Equality, Nationality Laws and Statelessness 2023: Nationality laws which do not grant women equality with men in conferring nationality to their children are a cause of statelessness.</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Action 4</p>	No.	Art. 7(3) and Art. 9(2), Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)
PRS.6.a	Birth registration	Does the law provide that all children are registered immediately upon birth regardless of the migration or residence status, sexual and/or gender identity of their parents?	<p>CRC: Article 7</p> <p>ICCPR: Article 24(2)</p> <p>CoE, Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 (2009): Member states should register the birth of all children born on their territory even if they are born to a foreign parent with an irregular immigration status or the parents are unknown.</p> <p>UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012): Article 7 CRC applies irrespective of the nationality, statelessness or residence status of the parents.</p> <p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Action 7</p> <p>UN Sustainable Development Goal 16.9</p> <p>European Parliament, Resolution on LGBTIQ rights in the EU (2021): Calls on States to overcome discrimination against rainbow persons and families.</p> <p>UNHCR and UNICEF, Background Note on Sex Discrimination in Birth Registration (2021): All parents regardless of their sex should have equal rights to register the births of their children without discrimination. Laws or regulations that provide that only opposite sex parents may register the birth of children should be reformed.</p>	<p>The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia guarantees to every child the right to a name and the right to be registered in the birth registries. The Family Law also stipulates that everybody has the right to a name and that the right to a name is acquired by birth. However, according to bylaws (Rulebook on the Procedure for the Issuance of Birth Notification and Form of Issuance of Birth Notification in a Health Care Institution), to register the birth and the name of their child immediately upon birth, parents need to possess birth certificates and ID cards, or, if they are foreign nationals, passports. Therefore, children whose parents are undocumented cannot be issued a birth certificate upon birth with their names determined. They need to undergo one of the following procedures: determination of personal name, subsequent birth registration, or determination of the date and place of birth. Each of these procedures often lasts several months, while in particularly complicated cases they may last a year or more. Therefore, the law/bylaws and practice do not ensure that children are registered immediately after birth if parents are undocumented.</p> <p>Children can be registered if (foreign) parents are not legally residing in the country.</p> <p>Domestic laws do not regulate the issue of the birth registration of children from rainbow families. However, the Family Law prescribes that "[T]he mother of the child is the woman who gave birth to it". Praxis encountered a case of surrogacy maternity where only the father of the child is registered in the foreign birth certificate. The competent body initially refused to register the child in Serbia, referring to the mentioned provision of the Family Law and stating that "every child must have the name of the mother in the birth certificate (...). In Serbia, it is not possible to</p>	<p>Art. 64(2), Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 98/2006, 115/2021 and 16/2022: https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ustav/2006/98/1/</p> <p>Arts. 13 and 42 Family Law, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 18/2005, 72/2011 – other law and 6/2015: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/porodicni_zakon.html (SR)</p> <p>Art. 5, Rulebook on the Procedure for the Issuance of Birth Notification and Form of Issuance of Birth Notification in a Health Care Institution, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, nos. 5/2011, 9/2016, 16/2016, 36/2016 and 103/2018: http://pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/ministarstva/pravilnik/2011/25/2/reg (SR)</p> <p>Points 10 & 24, Instruction on administering registry books and forms of registry books, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, nos. 109/2009, 4/2010, 10/2010, 25/2011, 5/2013, 94/2013 and 93/2018) http://pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/ministarstva/uputstvo/2009/109/1/reg (SR)</p> <p>Praxis casework/practice</p>

				register the birth of a child born by a surrogate mother (...). That is, it is possible, but such a thing would require that the name of the surrogate mother (or the wife of the child's father) be entered in the birth certificate". The father later managed to obtain a birth certificate for the child in Serbia, but the details of how he managed to do so are not known. Since the registration of a child born through a surrogate mother is not regulated by law, it cannot be concluded on a basis of one case that the registration of a child born through surrogacy would be possible in any future cases.	
PRS.6.b	Are all children issued with birth certificates upon registration? If no, please describe legal status of documentation issued.	HRC, Resolution A/HRC/RES/20/4 (2012) : Underscores the importance of effective birth registration and provision of documentary proof of birth irrespective of immigration status and that of parents or family members. Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC : Take all necessary measures to ensure that all children are immediately registered at birth and issued birth certificates, irrespective of their migration status or that of their parents.		For newborns enrolled in the birth registry, the registrar sends a birth certificate by mail to their home address after the registration. Note that children of undocumented parents cannot be registered in the birth registry books immediately upon the birth (see PRS .6.a).	Art 47 (2) Law on registry books, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 and 47/2018: https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2009/20/3/reg (SR)
PRS.6.c	Is the child's nationality determined or recorded upon birth registration? If yes, please describe how and by whom (e.g. if the mother/father's nationality is recorded and/or automatically attributed to the child, if there's a formal procedure, if information on both parents is recorded etc.)	CRC : Articles 3 & 7		For children who acquire Serbian nationality by descent, nationality is recorded in the birth registry books simultaneously with the birth registration. The registration is performed by a registrar, who is obliged to obtain proof of the parents' nationality ex officio, i.e. proof of fulfilment of the conditions for acquisition of nationality by the child. In cases when birth registration is performed subsequently, on the basis of a court decision determining the date and place of birth, in some municipalities the registrars do not register the nationality despite the fact that the conditions for acquiring nationality by descent have been met. When the parents are foreign nationals, in practice the registrars often record the nationality of the parents as the child's nationality. Moreover, when parents do not possess personal documents and proof of their nationality, or do not present such documents and evidence to the registrar, the child is often registered with the nationality of the State that the parents claim to come from. This may result in a child being registered with the nationality of another State even though the child has not acquired the nationality of that State and does not fulfil the conditions for acquiring the nationality of that State. On the other hand, the acquisition of Serbian nationality, by a child who would otherwise be stateless, may be denied or made more difficult. Parents may wrongly believe that the child possesses the nationality of a state and, consequently, fail to initiate adequate procedures for the child's acquisition of nationality in due time.	Art 46 Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR) Arts. 2, 3, and 9 Regulations on the Manner of Registration of the Fact of Nationality in the Birth Registry Book, Forms of Keeping Records on Decisions on Acquisition and Termination of Nationality and Form of Nationality Certificate, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 22/2005, 84/2005, 121/2007, 69/2010, 55/2017 and 82/2018: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/ministarstva/pravilnik/2005/22/1/reg Articles 9 and 103 Law on general administrative procedure, The Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no 18/2016, 95/2018 and 2/2023: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-opstem-upravnom-postupku.html (SR) Praxis casework/practice: Praxis: Determining the Date and Place of Birth, Right to Nationality and Permanent Residence Registration - Analysis of Remaining Obstacles, 2017, page 12: https://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/UNHCR_izvestaj_2017.pdf Praxis: Review of the remaining obstacles in exercise of the right to birth registration, acquisition of nationality and permanent residence registration, 2018, page 6: https://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/Review_of_the_remaining_obstacles.pdf

PRS.6.d		<p>If a child's nationality is not determined or recorded upon birth registration, is there a legal framework to determine the child's nationality later? If yes, please describe the procedure, including the legal grounds, deadlines, competent authority, and whether the child's best interests are taken into consideration.</p>	<p>CRC: Articles 3 & 7 1961 Convention: Articles 1 & 4 UNHCR, Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4 (2012): States need to determine whether a child would otherwise be stateless as soon as possible so as not to prolong a child's status of undetermined nationality. Such a period should not exceed five years. HRC, CCPR General comment No. 17 (1989): States are required to adopt every appropriate measure, both internally and in cooperation with other States, to ensure that every child has a nationality when he is born. UNHCR, Best Interests Procedure Guidelines (2021) HRC, D.Z. v. Netherlands (2021)</p>	<p>The Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia prescribes that the Ministry of Interior shall determine nationality for a person who acquired it, but was not registered in the birth registry or in the nationality records. It has been prescribed that the nationality shall be recorded on the basis of a decision of the Ministry of Interior, and that the procedure for determination of nationality shall be initiated upon a request from the party or upon a request of a body competent for conducting a procedure related to the party's exercise of rights or ex officio. In practice, as a rule, the procedures for determination of nationality are initiated upon the request of the party. Praxis is not aware of the procedures initiated upon the request of a body or ex officio. The Law does not prescribe a deadline for a procedure for determination of nationality to be initiated. However, in practice, in cases of acquisition of nationality by birth in Serbia, after 18 years of age the nationality may no longer be determined on that basis (see PRS.2.h.). There are no safeguards in place to ensure that a child does not remain with undetermined nationality for a period over 5 years. The Family Law stipulates that everyone is obliged to be guided by the best interest of the child in all activities concerning the child. However, if the practice described above is taken into account (that the procedure for determining nationality is not initiated at the request of an authority or ex officio), as well as that there are no safeguards in place to ensure that a child does not remain with undetermined nationality for a period over 5 years, it can be concluded that the best interest of the child is not always taken into consideration.</p>	<p>Art 44 Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)</p> <p>Praxis casework/practice.</p> <p>Art. 6, Family Law, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 18/2005, 72/2011 – other law and 6/2015: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/porodicni_zakon.html (SR)</p>
PRS.6.e		<p>Are there credible reports to suggest that, in practice, children are prevented from registering their birth (or their birth certificate issued abroad is not recognised) because of parents' migration or residence status, sexual and/or gender identity, because they were born as a result of a surrogacy agreement, or other reasons (please specify)?</p>	<p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC: Urge States parties to take all necessary measures to ensure that all children are immediately registered at birth and issued birth certificates, irrespective of their migration status or that of their parents. Legal and practical obstacles to birth registration should be removed. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration: States will contribute resources and expertise to strengthen the capacity of national civil registries to facilitate timely access by refugees and stateless persons to civil and birth registration. Global Compact on Refugees: States commit to fulfil the right of all individuals to a legal identity and ensure that migrants are issued documentation and civil registry documents. European Parliament Resolution (2018): Calls on Member States to take immediate corrective measures to stop discriminatory birth registration. European Parliament, Resolution on LGBTIQ rights in the EU (2021): Emphasises the importance of the recognition of birth certificates in all EU Member States regardless of the sex of the parents. UNHCR and UNICEF, Background Note on Sex Discrimination in Birth Registration (2021): All parents regardless of their sex should have equal rights to register the births of their children without discrimination. Laws or regulations that provide that</p>	<p>There are credible reports suggesting that children are prevented from registering in practice because of parents' lack of documentation. Praxis is not aware of any reports that would suggest that children are prevented from registering in practice because of parents' migration status, sexual orientation or gender identity, but Praxis had a couple of cases where registrars refused to register the fact of birth of children born abroad from same-sex parents or in the case of surrogacy maternity when only the father of the child is registered in the foreign birth certificate. However, in the case of surrogacy maternity, after an initial refusal of the competent body to issue a birth certificate to a child, the father later managed to register child in Serbia, but the details of how he managed to do so are not known. Since the registration of a child born by a surrogate mother is not regulated by law, it cannot be concluded on a basis of one case that the registration of a child born through surrogacy would be possible in any future cases. (see also the answer PRS.6.a)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Analysis of the Procedures for Determining the Date and Place of Birth and for the Exercise of Rights to Nationality and Registration of Permanent Residence in 2016, 2016 · Analysis of the Procedures for Determining the Date and Place of Birth and for the Exercise of Rights to Nationality and Registration of Permanent Residence in 2015, 2015 · Analysis of the Late Birth Registration Procedures, 2015 · The Right to Nationality in the Republic of Serbia – a brief analysis of the remaining challenges, 2014 · Preventing Childhood Statelessness - Remaining Problems in Serbia, 2014 · The Right to Nationality in the Republic of Serbia – a brief analysis of the remaining challenges, 2014 · Persons at Risk of Statelessness in Serbia – Case Studies, 2011 · Persons at Risk of Statelessness in Serbia, 2010 · Analysis of Practical Application of the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure – Determining the Date and Place of Birth, 2013 · Determining the Date and Place of Birth, Right to Nationality and Permanent Residence Registration - Analysis of Remaining Obstacles, 2017 · Review of the remaining obstacles in exercise of the right to birth registration, acquisition of nationality and permanent residence registration, 2018 · Review of the remaining obstacles in exercise of the right to birth registration, acquisition of citizenship and permanent residence registration in 2019. - Overview of obstacles to exercising the right to registration in birth registry books, acquisition of citizenship and registration of permanent residence in 2020

			<p>only opposite sex parents may register the birth of children should be reformed.</p> <p>Court of Justice of the European Union, V.M.A. v Bulgaria, Case C-490/20 (2021): Domestic authorities of an EU Member State are required to issue a birth certificate and identity documents to a child who is a national of that state and was born in another EU Member State, including when the birth certificate contains two parents of the same sex.</p>		<p>- Overview of obstacles to exercising the right to registration in birth registry books, acquisition of citizenship and registration of permanent residence in 2021</p> <p>- Overview of obstacles to exercising the right to registration in birth registry books, acquisition of citizenship and registration of permanent residence in 2022</p> <p>All published by Praxis, all available at: http://praxis.org.rs/index.php/en/reports-documents/praxis-reports</p> <p>Praxis casework/practice.</p>
PRS.6.f	Are there mandatory reporting requirements that would deter undocumented parents from coming forward to register their children (e.g. health or civil registry authorities required to report undocumented migrants)? If not, is there a clear firewall to prohibit the sharing of information by other entities with immigration authorities?	<p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC and Joint General Comment No. 3 (2017) CMW and No. 22 (2017) CRC: Legal and practical obstacles to birth registration should be removed, including by prohibiting data sharing between health providers or civil servants responsible for registration with immigration enforcement authorities; and not requiring parents to produce documentation regarding their migration status. Children's personal data, in particular biometric data, should only be used for child protection purposes.</p> <p>CoE, ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 16(2016): States should clearly prohibit the sharing of information about migrants suspected of irregular presence with immigration authorities. These firewalls must be binding on state authorities and the private sector.</p>	<p>The Law on registry books prescribes a fine for parents who do not register the birth of their child and don't declare a personal name in a specified time (15 and 30 days after the birth). However, according to the experience of Praxis, this provision does not apply in practice and it is not a factor that discourages parents from attempting to register their children. Instructions were issued in 2020 for dealing with cases of birth of a child whose parents are undocumented in order to enable birth registration. They stipulate that the health institution is obliged to inform the nearest police station about the case of a mother who gives birth without personal documents and who presents herself as a foreigner. It is further prescribed that the provisions of the Law on Foreigners and the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection relating to the taking of biometric data will be applied, and that in this way the identity of the mother will be established.</p> <p>Although it is stipulated that the purpose of these provisions is the registration of the child, informing the police may result in the removal of the mother from Serbia due to irregular stay.</p> <p>It should be noted that this Instruction is not published in the Official Gazette, and it is not a legally binding act, but serves only as a guideline for the actions of the competent authorities. The Instruction was adopted at the end of 2020 and, according to Praxis experience, the Instruction is most often not implemented. There are no reports that informing the police resulted in the removal of the mother from Serbia due to irregular stay.</p>	<p>Art.48, 54 & 87, Law on Registry Books, The Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 & 47/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_maticnim_knjigama.html (SR)</p> <p>Praxis casework/practice.</p> <p>Part II, point 3. Instruction for dealing with cases of birth of a child whose parents are undocumented in order to enable birth registration.</p> <p>Praxis, Overview of obstacles to exercising the right to registration in birth registry books, acquisition of citizenship and registration of permanent residence in 2021. 2021, p.5: https://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/Overview_of_obstacles_in_accessing_rights_Praxis_2021.pdf</p>	
PRS.6.g	Is there a statutory deadline for birth registration? If yes, please state the deadline and whether late birth registration is possible in law and practice.	<p>Joint General Comment No. 4 (2017) CMW and No. 23 (2017) CRC: Measures should also be taken to facilitate late registration of birth and to avoid financial penalties for late registration.</p> <p>HRC, Resolution A/HRC/RES/20/4 (2012): Calls upon States to ensure free birth registration, including free or low-fee late birth registration, for every child.</p> <p>General Comment No 7 (2005) CRC: States should facilitate late registration of birth and ensure that children who have not been registered have equal access to health care, protection, education and other social services.</p>	<p>The prescribed deadline for registration of a child's birth is 15 days from the day of birth. If a child's birth has not been registered within 30 days, the registrar may register the child's fact of birth only on the basis of a decision by the competent administrative body, so it is necessary to initiate a procedure for the subsequent registration of the fact of birth. The Law on Non-Contentious Procedure prescribes a separate procedure that should enable registration of the fact of birth by persons who are not able to register in the birth registry book through the administrative procedure.</p>	<p>Articles 25 and 28, Law on Registry Books, The Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 & 47/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_maticnim_knjigama.html (SR)</p> <p>Articles 71a-71lj, Law on Non-Contentious Procedure, the Official Gazette of Socialist Republic of Serbia, no 25/82 & 48/88, The Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no. 46/95, 18/2005, 85/2012, 45/2013, 55/2014, 6/2015, 106/2015 & 14/2022: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_vanparnicnom_postupku.html (SR)</p>	
PRS.6.h	Are there additional requirements for late birth registration (e.g. fees, documents, court procedure)? Please describe the procedure including the	As above	<p>The administrative procedure for subsequent birth registration is conducted before the municipal or city administrative body in the place of birth of the individual that is being registered. The regulations governing the subsequent birth registration procedure are not sufficiently precise, while the proceeding of the</p>	<p>Praxis practice/casework - see reports in PRS.6.e.</p> <p>Art. 25 of the Law on Registry Books, the Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no. 20/2009, 145/2014 & 47/2018:</p>	

		competent authority and procedural deadlines.		<p>administrative bodies in these procedures varies among municipalities. However, it is necessary that parents give statements to confirm that they are the parents. Statements should also be taken from two witnesses of childbirth. In case the mother cannot participate in the procedure or she is not registered in the birth registry herself, it is not possible to successfully complete the birth registration through the administrative procedure. Some administrative bodies even rejected requests for subsequent birth registration if there were no witnesses who could confirm that they were personally present during the childbirth. The Law on General Administrative Procedure stipulates that the competent bodies should obtain evidence ex officio, but it is advisable to submit evidence such as vaccination card, a school certificate or the IDP card. The decisions in these procedures should be brought within two months, but that deadline is almost always exceeded, sometimes multiple times. Persons who cannot prove the fact of their birth in an administrative procedure can initiate the non-contentious court procedure for determination of date and place of birth.</p> <p>Every court with the subject matter jurisdiction has the territorial jurisdiction in the procedure for determination of date and place of birth. The motion may be submitted by whoever has a legal interest, as well as by a social welfare centre. The petitioner should ensure the presence of two adult witnesses who will give statements before court on the date and place of birth of that individual. It is appropriate that the petitioner encloses other evidence that can confirm the date and place of birth and, if the petitioner possesses the documents of the parents, it is important to enclose those pieces of evidence as well, because the court will be able to state the data about the parents in its decision, which is significant for the acquisition of nationality. The first hearing must be held within 30 days and the procedure must be completed within 90 days from submitting the motion, but most courts exceed these deadlines, sometimes significantly. Other practical challenges also remain: in many cases the parties are requested to pay fees, although the law exempts them from that obligation. Although the law only prescribes that witnesses must be adults, the courts apply different evidentiary rules – some courts require witnesses to be close relatives, and others do not accept relatives as witnesses. In many cases, it takes an unreasonably long time for the courts to send the decisions to the registrars, from several months to even more than a year.</p> <p>In 2020, the Supreme Court of Cassation issued a conclusion on the jurisdiction of the courts in non-contentious birth registration procedures. This Conclusion could particularly hinder the exercise of the right to birth registration, as the court held that non-contentious procedures for determining the date and place of birth could be conducted only if the administrative procedure for subsequent registration in the birth registry books had been previously conducted and were unsuccessful. In addition, according to th Conclusion, persons registered in the Kosovo birth registry books cannot request the court conducts a procedure for determination of the date and place of birth. The only option for these persons is to try to register through the administrative procedure of subsequent registration, but if they cannot provide</p>	<p>https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_maticnim_knjigama.html (SR)</p> <p>Articles 9 and 103 of the Law on General Administrative Procedure, the Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no 18/2016, 95/2018 and 2/2023: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-opstem-upravnom-postupku.html (SR)</p> <p>Articles 71a-71lj, Law on Non-Contentious Procedure, the Official Gazette of Socialist Republic of Serbia, no 25/82 & 48/88, the Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no. 46/95, 18/2005, 85/2012, 45/2013, 55/2014, 6/2015, 106/2015 & 14/2022: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_vanparnicnom_postupku.html (SR)</p> <p>Supreme Court of Cassation, Ruling on competence of a non-contentious court in the procedure of birth registration, 3 July 2020: https://www.vk.sud.rs/sites/default/files/attachments/Zakljucak%20-%20Nadleznost%20vanparnicnog%20suda%20u%20postupku%20u%20pisa%20u%20maticnu%20knjigu%20rodjenih.pdf</p>
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				the evidence mentioned in the first paragraph of this answer, their request will be refused.	
PRS.7.a	Reducing <i>in situ</i> statelessness	Does the government have any programmes in place to promote civil registration (including birth registration)? If yes, please provide details.	<p>UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Action 7</p>	<p>A programme aiming to promote civil registration was implemented between 2012 to 2016. The Government established a Technical Group in 2012 through a memorandum of understanding between the Ombudsperson, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self Government and UNHCR. Activities included a campaign to raise awareness among members of the Roma minority about how to exercise their right to registration in the birth registry books and the provision of free legal assistance in subsequent registration procedures.</p> <p>In October 2019, the Ministry for Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ombudsperson and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding which refers to further cooperation on resolving the problems faced by the Romani population in exercising the right to registration in the birth registry and other rights related to personal status, with special emphasis on new-born children.</p> <p>In February 2022, the Ministry for Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Ombudsperson and UNHCR signed the third Memorandum of Understanding on continuation of cooperation towards eradicating statelessness in Serbia.</p> <p>Serbia joined other Western Balkan States in committing to addressing remaining civil registration issues affecting the Romani population under the Poznan Declaration in 2019 and 2020.</p>	<p>Praxis, Technical Group Formed for the Purpose of Providing Assistance to Members of Roma Community Who are not Registered in Birth Registry Book and Do not Possess Personal Documents, 23 Nov 2012: http://praxis.org.rs/index.php/en/praxis-in-action/status-and-socioeconomic-rights/item/482-technical-group-formed-for-the-purpose-of-providing-assistance-to-members-of-roma-community-who-are-not-registered-in-birth-registry-book-and-do-not-possess-personal-documents/482-technical-group-formed-for-the-purpose-of-providing-assistance-to-members-of-roma-community-who-are-not-registered-in-birth-registry-book-and-do-not-possess-personal-documents</p> <p>Joint Statement of the signatories of the MoU: https://www.mpravde.gov.rs/sr/vest/441/usvojen-plan-aktivnosti-upravnog-odbora-i-dogovoreno-obrazovanje-tehnicke-grupe.php (SR)</p> <p>UNHCR, Continuation of cooperation to eradicate statelessness in Serbia, 28 Feb 2022: https://www.unhcr.org/rs/en/19785-continuation-of-cooperation-to-eradicate-statelessness-in-serbia.html</p> <p>Regional Cooperation Council, Declaration of Western Balkans Partners on Roma Integration within the EU Enlargement Process, July 2019: https://www.rcc.int/romaintegration2020/docs/105/the-poznan-declaration</p> <p>Regional Cooperation Council, Conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting on Roma Integration, 27 October 2020: https://www.rcc.int/romaintegration2020/news/343/conclusions-of-the-ministerial-meeting-on-roma-integration</p>
PRS.7.b		Are there particular sections of the population - such as minority groups or people affected by conflict - believed to be stateless/at risk of statelessness? Please provide details and source of information.	<p>1961 Convention: Article 9 UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Action 4 HRC, Recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues (2019): States should take legislative, administrative and policy measures aimed at eliminating statelessness affecting minorities.</p>	Yes, members of the Roma (including also Ashkali and Egyptians) national minority.	<p>Ombudsperson, Report on the Position of “Legally Invisible Persons” in the Republic of Serbia, 2012, pp. 1 & 11: https://www.ombudsman.rs/attachments/2222_Izvestaj%20o%20polozaju%20%20pravno%20nevidljivih%20u%20RS.pdf (SR)</p> <p>UNHCR, Persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia, Progress report 2010-2015, 2016, p. 8: https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/57bd436b4.pdf</p> <p>UNHCR and CeSID, Persons at risk of statelessness in Serbia: overview of current situation and the way forward, p. 10, November 2020: https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/615efd094.pdf</p> <p>Praxis practice/casework - see reports in PRS.6.e.</p>
PRS.7.c		Has the State implemented any other measures specifically aimed at reducing (risk of) statelessness? (e.g. identification, registration or naturalisation campaigns, removal of treaty reservations, reform of discriminatory laws, etc.)	<p>1961 Convention UNHCR, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-24 (2014): Actions 1 & 8 UNHCR, Good Practices Paper - Action 1 (2022): States generally address and resolve situations of statelessness through law and policy reform enabling stateless persons to acquire nationality automatically by operation of law, through a simple registration process, or through naturalisation. Non-automatic procedures are generally a less effective way to</p>	The Law on Amendments to the Law on Nationality (2018) prescribed a (time-limited) possibility for facilitated acquisition of nationality for certain groups. Even though it was not directly addressed at reducing the risk of statelessness, it may in practice have had this effect on some individuals. It prescribed that a national of former SFRY or a national of another republic of the former SFRY, or a national of another state created on the territory of the former SFRY could be granted Serbian nationality if, on 31 December 2016 and on the day of submitting the request, they had permanent residence registered on the territory of the	<p>Law on Amendments to the Law on Nationality, Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no. 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/izmene_i_dopune/260318-zakon-o-dopunama-zakona-o-drzavljanstvu-republike-srbije.html (SR)</p> <p>Bill on Amendments to the Law on Nationality: (with explanation), pp.3-4, http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/predlozi_zakona/3709-17%20-%20LAT.pdf (SR)</p>

			resolve statelessness because they require the person concerned to take certain steps to acquire nationality.	Republic of Serbia. The request for acquisition of nationality could be submitted within a year from the entry into force of this Law. The aim was to facilitate acquisition of nationality for people who had permanent residence in Serbia and ID cards issued by Serbia for many years. The group affected was mainly made up of elderly people who only realised that they did not have an ID card with indefinite validity, nor Serbian nationality, nor could they obtain a new biometric ID card due to lack of nationality, when they tried to replace their old ID cards with new biometric ones. The deadline for submitting a request for acquisition of nationality on this ground expired in April 2019.	
PRS.8.a	Deprivation of nationality	Are there any provisions on deprivation of nationality that could render a person stateless? Please state whether there is a safeguard against statelessness established in law and on what grounds deprivation of nationality may result in statelessness (e.g. national security, fraud, etc.).	<p>1961 Convention: Article 8 & 9 ECN: Article 7(3) UDHR: Article 15(2) Principles on Deprivation of Nationality and the Draft Commentary: Principle 2.2: Deprivation of nationality refers to any loss, withdrawal or denial of nationality that was not voluntarily requested by the individual; Principles 4, 5 & 6 HRC, Report of the Secretary-General on Human Rights and Arbitrary Deprivation of Nationality (2009): para. 23 UNHCR Guidelines on Statelessness No.5 (2020): the prohibition of arbitrary deprivation of nationality also includes situations where there is no formal act by a State but where the practice of its competent authorities clearly shows that they have ceased to consider a particular individual/group as national(s) (e.g. where authorities persistently refuse to issue or renew documents without providing an explanation or justification). ILEC Guidelines (2015): Deprivation of nationality must have a firm legal basis, should not be interpreted extensively or applied by analogy and deprivation-provisions must be predictable.</p>	<p>The Law on Nationality prescribes that nationality may be terminated in three ways: by release, renunciation and international treaties. Release is conditional on the applicant having a foreign nationality or possessing evidence that they shall be admitted to foreign nationality. If the person granted release from Serbian nationality does not acquire a foreign nationality within a year from the decision on release, and if the person would remain stateless, the body that issued the decision on release shall cancel the decision on written request from the person affected. For renunciation of nationality, the applicant must possess a foreign nationality.</p> <p>The Ministry of Interior may cancel the decision on acquisition of nationality or cancel the recording in the register of citizens if it establishes that they acquired Serbian nationality or was registered in the nationality records contrary to the regulations on nationality, especially pursuant to a false or forged document or statement, based on inaccurate facts or other abuse in the procedure. However, a decision on acquisition of Serbian nationality cannot be cancelled if that person would be left without nationality. There is no available data on practice. Regarding the freedom of information request on the number of persons for whom decisions on acquisition of citizenship were annulled, or entries in the records of citizens were annulled, the Ministry of Interior responded that it was unable to search its records according to that criterion.</p> <p>In addition to loss of nationality on the basis of the Law on Nationality, Praxis is also aware of cases of “quasi-loss”, in which a person is said never to have had nationality, even though they assumed they were Serbian citizens and competent bodies shared that assumption and issued them with nationality certificates for years or even decades. Unlike cases of loss of nationality under the law, in cases of “quasi-loss”, the competent body failed to examine if the person would remain stateless. People who have held nationality certificates for years, have found out that they may no longer get one until their nationality is determined. People affected have received certificates confirming their nationality is not registered but that they held (former) SFRY nationality. Praxis has dealt with at least 30 such cases, although in recent years such cases have been rare.</p>	<p>Arts. 27, 28(1.6), 32, 33(1) & 45 Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)</p> <p>Response from Administration for Administrative Affairs of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5.3 No. 03.8 No. 204-1492/23-P-1, issued on 11 August 2023.</p> <p>Praxis casework.</p> <p>Praxis, Persons at risk of statelessness – case studies, pp. 23-25, available at: http://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/praxis-persons-at-risk-of-statelessness-in-serbia.pdf</p>
PRS.8.b		Who is the competent authority for deprivation of nationality and what procedural safeguards are in place (e.g. due process, fair trial, participation in the proceedings, legal aid, decision in writing with reasoning, judicial	<p>1961 Convention: Article 8(4) ECN: Articles 10 to 13 Principles on Deprivation of Nationality: Principle 7. Deprivation of nationality must be carried out in pursuance of a legitimate purpose, provided for by law, necessary, proportionate and in accordance</p>	<p>The Ministry of Interior is the competent authority for the termination of nationality or cancellation of the decision on acquisition of nationality. The Law on Nationality prescribes that the procedure for applications to terminate nationality is considered urgent. According to the Law on General Administrative Procedure, applied in procedures for acquisition and termination</p>	<p>Art. 38 and 45, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_drzavljanstvu_republike_srbije.html (SR)</p>

		oversight, appeal, time limit, subject to prior sentencing)?	with procedural safeguards; Principle 8: Everyone has the right to a fair trial or hearing and to an effective remedy and reparation. ILEC Guidelines (2015) : The consequences of a decision to deprive somebody of his nationality must be assessed against the principle of proportionality. Adequate procedural safeguards are essential. Decisions should only take effect when the (judicial) decision cannot be challenged anymore.	of nationality, a decision on the procedure must be issued within 60 days. There is no available data on the duration of the procedure for termination of nationality. However, one of the main problems in the acquisition of nationality procedure (also an urgent procedure), is that it is very lengthy, and deadlines are significantly exceeded. The Law on General Administrative Procedure prescribes that the decision must be issued in writing and must contain the rationale and notice of legal remedies. An administrative dispute may be initiated before the Administrative Court against the first-instance decision of the Ministry of Interior. The Law on Free Legal Aid was adopted in November 2018 and came into force on 1 October 2019, which should provide access to free legal aid. In cases of “quasi-loss” of nationality (see above), a registry office is the body that informs a person that they do not have Serbian nationality and must initiate the procedure for determination of nationality. An individual decision has never been passed and the persons were not given the possibility of exercising the right to nationality in a regular appeals procedure.	Arts. 145, 140, 141, 143, Law on General Administrative Procedure, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 18/2016, 95/2018, and 2/2023: https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon_o_opstem_upravnom_pos_tupku-2016.html (SR) Praxis practice/casework - see reports in PRS.6.e. Law on Free Legal Aid, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 87/18 : https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/zakon-o-besplatnoj-pravnoj-pomoci.html (SR) Praxis, Persons at risk of statelessness – case studies, pp. 23-25, available at: http://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/praxis-persons-at-risk-of-statelessness-in-serbia.pdf
PRS.8.c		Are provisions on deprivation of nationality applied in practice? Have they been applied even where it results in (risk of) statelessness? If available, please provide any sources of data or information on cases that resulted in statelessness.		There is no data on practice available. Regarding the freedom of information request on the number of persons for whom decisions on acquisition of citizenship were annulled, or entries in the records of citizens were annulled, the Ministry of Interior responded that it was unable to search its records according to that criterion.	Legal database: www.propisi.net Response from Administration for Administrative Affairs of Ministry of Interior to freedom of information request, 03.5.3 No. 03.8 No. 204-1492/23-P-1, issued on 11 August 2023.
PRS.8.d		Are there safeguards in law and practice to prevent renunciation or other forms of voluntary loss of nationality from resulting in statelessness?	1961 Convention : Article 7 ECN : Articles 7 and 8	Yes. The Law on Nationality prescribes that for renunciation of nationality, the applicant must possess a foreign nationality.	Art. 33(1) Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018:
PRS.8.e		Are there any provisions on deprivation of nationality in a national security context (regardless of whether they could render a person stateless)? Please describe these provisions and if/how they are applied in practice.	Principles on Deprivation of Nationality Principle 4: States shall not deprive persons of nationality for the purpose of safeguarding national security. Where provisions exist, these should be interpreted narrowly and in accordance with international law standards. UNHCR Guidelines on Statelessness No.5 (2020) : Laws that permit deprivation of nationality on the grounds of terrorism should be publicly available and precise enough to enable individuals to understand the scope of impermissible conduct.	There are no such provisions.	
PRS.8.f		Are there any provisions on deprivation of nationality that directly or indirectly discriminate a person or group of persons on any ground prohibited under international law or that discriminate between nationals? Please describe these provisions and if/how they are applied in practice.	ICCPR : Article 26 1961 Convention : Article 9 ECN : Article 5 Principles on Deprivation of Nationality : Principle 6. Prohibited grounds for discrimination include race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, ethnicity, property, birth or inheritance, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other real or perceived status, characteristic or affiliation. Each State is also bound by the principle of non-discrimination between its nationals.	There are no such provisions.	

PRS.8.g		<p>Are there safeguards to prevent derivative loss of nationality (i.e., loss of nationality on the basis that a parent or a spouse has been deprived of that nationality)? Please describe the potential impact of deprivation on children and spouses.</p>	<p>CRC: Articles 2(2), 7 and 8 CEDAW: Article 9(1) Principles on Deprivation of Nationality: States must take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members (Principle 9.7). The derivative loss of nationality is prohibited (Principle 9.8).</p>	<p>Although there are no provisions in the Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia that directly prevent derivative loss of nationality, Serbia is a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia stipulates that ratified international treaties are an integral part of the legal system and applied directly.</p> <p>The Constitution also stipulates that a national of the Republic of Serbia may not be deprived of nationality and the Law on Nationality prescribes that a decision on acquisition of Serbian nationality (brought contrary to the regulations on nationality) cannot be cancelled if that person would be left without nationality.</p>	<p>Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no. 7/71, 15/90 and Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, no. 4/96 and 2/97.</p> <p>Law on Ratification of Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Official Gazette of the Republic of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no.11/81.</p> <p>Art 60(4) of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro.</p> <p>Art. 16 (2) and 38 (2) Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 98/2006, 115/2021 and 16/2022,</p> <p>Art. 38 and 45, Law on Nationality of the Republic of Serbia, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 135/2004, 90/2007 and 24/2018:</p>
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Resources

Item	Subtheme	Question	International Norms & Good Practice	Answer	Source
RES.1.a	Published judgments	Please list the most relevant judgments relating to statelessness and include links to the cases (where available).		There are no statelessness related judgments.	Legal database: www.propisi.net
RES.2.a	Free legal assistance	Are there specialised lawyers or organisations providing free advice to stateless people or those at risk of statelessness? If yes, please describe.	UNHCR, Handbook on Protection (2014) : Applicants must have access to legal counsel.	Praxis provides free legal assistance, information and counselling to persons at risk of statelessness. Free legal assistance encompasses representation in various procedures related to birth and subsequent birth registration, determination of and admission into the nationality.	Praxis: www.praxis.org.rs
RES.3.a	Literature	Is there domestic academic literature on statelessness? Please list and provide references and hyperlinks (where available).		There is very limited academic literature on statelessness (less than ten scholarly articles). There is one significant author in this field (Vida Cok, with three articles on statelessness) and one article by Mirko Živković, from the Faculty of Law, University of Niš.	SCIndeks (online platform of scientific journals, works and academic literature): https://scindeks.ceon.rs/Default.aspx (SR)