Introduction

The Statelessness Programme was established with a view to fulfilling the need for a sustainable centre of expertise which is dedicated to research, training and outreach on statelessness and related issues. The programme aims to:

- Engage in and provide support for research on statelessness;
- Promote academic education and professional training on statelessness;
- Engage in public debate and inform policy development by international, governmental, advocacy and service organisations.

The Statelessness Programme was officially launched at the end of 2011. As such, this is the first Annual Report of its activities. Although concentrating on 2012, the report includes details of a number of projects that were carried out or initiated during the period of establishment of the Statelessness Programme in 2011.

Should you have any questions about the information presented in this report, please do not hesitate to contact us at Statelessness.Programme@tilburguniversity.edu. For up-to-date information on our activities, please visit our website: http://www.tilburguniversity.edu/statelessness.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Dr. Laura van Waas
Founder and Manager of the Statelessness Programme
Tilburg, January 2013

Organisation

Staff

Dr. Laura van Waas
Manager and Senior Researcher of the Statelessness Programme

Ms. Zahra Albarazi
Researcher and coordinator of the 2011-2012 MENA Nationality and Statelessness Project, Principal researcher for the Nationality & Gender Discrimination Project

Ms. Simone van den Driest
Coordinator of the 2012 edition of the Statelessness Summer Course

Dr. Conny Rijken
Expert on Trafficking in Human Beings, collaborating with the Statelessness Programme on the 2012-2013 Research Project on Statelessness in Thailand

Dr. Martin Gramatikov
Expert on Subjective Legal Empowerment, collaborating with the Statelessness Programme on the 2012-2013 Research Project on Statelessness in Thailand

Visiting Scholars

Mr. Jason Tucker
PhD Student, University of Bath
Visiting scholar from October 2012 – April 2013
Jason is based at the University of Bath in the U.K where he is in the final year of his PhD research. Previously he was a visiting scholar at the Lebanese American University in Beirut. His thesis looks at the theories of global citizenship and how they are being used by those addressing statelessness in Lebanon. It is through this work that he hopes to show the usefulness of taking an inter-disciplinary, social sciences approach to understanding statelessness. He has been based at the Statelessness Programme since October 2012 and will stay for six months while writing up his thesis and assisting with some projects currently under development at the Statelessness Programme – in particular the initial design and planning phase for the International Conference on Statelessness which is envisaged for September 2014.

Secretarial and admin support

Ms. Femke Bijleveld and Ms. Marijke van Schijndel
Secretarial support to the Statelessness Programme, as a sub-section of the Department of European and International Law

Ms. Hedwig van Harssel
Financial planning and reporting and overall admin support to the Statelessness Programme, as part of Tilburg Law School
Partners

The Statelessness Programme works with a range of academic institutions, UN agencies, civil society organisations and government bodies on each of its projects. Some of the principal partnerships are listed below. Additional details of partnerships on particular initiatives are provided, as relevant, in the other sections of this report.

Open Society Foundations
Funding and collaboration on the MENA Nationality and Statelessness Project and the 2012 Statelessness Summer Course.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Funding and collaboration on the Global Nationality Law Database Project and numerous training and research activities.

U.S. Department of State, Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration
Funding and collaboration on the 2012-2013 Research Project on Statelessness in Thailand.

Women’s Refugee Commission
Funding and collaboration on the Nationality & Gender Discrimination Project.

European Network on Statelessness
On-going collaboration to raise awareness of and work to address statelessness in Europe through the establishment of a civil society coalition, officially launched in June 2012. The Statelessness Programme is a founding partner and participates in the Steering Committee as the capacity building focal point.

Internship Programme and Award

Part of the mission of the Statelessness Programme is to encourage university students to take an interest in and learn about the issue of statelessness. Alongside regular teaching activities, the Statelessness Programme offers talented students the opportunity to increase their knowledge and gain valuable work experience in the competitive field of human rights through its internship programme. Each internship is distinct and students work independently on a project that directly contributes to one of the Statelessness Programme’s research, training or outreach activities, while receiving guidance and technical support from one or more of our staff members. Many of our interns choose to devote their undergraduate or graduate dissertation to statelessness in order to deepen their knowledge of the issue and some are now exploring opportunities to continue to work in this field.

Interns

Ms. Mosghan Wahedi
Studying: International and European Law
Bachelor Programme
Internship Project: Organisational Support for the Statelessness Programme Launch Event
Internship Period: October to December 2011

Ms. Valeria Cherednichenko
Studying: International and European Law Masters Programme
Internship Project: Research Assistance for the MENA Nationality and Statelessness Project
Internship Period: October 2011 to June 2012

Internship Testimonials

To be honest, when I applied to be an intern at the Statelessness Programme in Tilburg University, I knew almost nothing about the issue of ‘statelessness’. However, that was exactly the reason why I got particularly interested in this position: I wanted to learn more about this phenomenon. How could someone not have a passport? This was my question and I found the answers. Moreover, it turned out that there are many more questions left unanswered in the sphere of statelessness, so I was not only an intern at the Statelessness Programme for nine months, but I also ended up writing my Master Thesis on the issue of statelessness. During the internship I did legal research within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Nationality and Statelessness project, including legal analysis of relevant legislation across the region and desk reviews of identified themes. I have also had a chance to write articles for the Statelessness Programme Blog on various issues related to statelessness around the globe. This has been an invaluable experience for me in many ways, so I am very thankful to Laura van Waas and Zuhra Albarazi for the given opportunity.

Valeria Cherednichenko, now about to start a PhD on statelessness in Madrid

This year I did a summer internship with the Statelessness Programme, helping to complete a global database for statelessness. This involved carefully assessing the nationality laws of 25 countries to see how they comply with international standards and obligations. Sometimes the trickiest part was locating the law itself! It was interesting to see the various approaches taken by different countries; ranging from clear efforts to comply with international obligations, to carefully trying to comply with certain aspects and circumvent others, and then some laws that simply skipped the topic altogether! The best part of this internship was getting to know the people in the office and those who I contacted for assistance for certain countries. - it is a very positive and inspiring environment to work in and I was proud to be a part of this project.

Magda Hughes, now back with her home university in Australia

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Magda Hughes, now back with her home university in Australia
Ms. Sangita Jaghai
Studying: International and European Law Bachelor Programme
Internship Project: Research on Statelessness in the Dutch ‘No Fault’ Procedure
Internship Period: January – December 2012

Ms. Magda Hughes
Studying: International and European Law Exchange Programme
Internship Project: Legal Analysis for the Global Nationality Law Database Project
Internship Period: July – August 2012

Ms. Milou Keijzers
Studying: Social and Behavioural Sciences Research Master Programme
Internship Project: Field Research Preparation (drafting of questionnaires) for Nationality & Gender Discrimination Project
Internship Period: September – October 2012

Ms. Caia Vlieks
Studying: International and European Law Masters Programme & Law Research Master Programme
Internship Project: Research Assistance for Statelessness in the Dutch ‘No Fault’ Procedure
Internship Period: October – December 2012

Mr. Ivan Kochovski
Studying: International and European Law, Masters Programme
Internship Project: Research Assistance for the MENA Nationality and Statelessness Project
Internship Period: October – June 2013

International Internship Award

Funding permitting, a student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment, resourcefulness and competence during an internship with the Statelessness Programme, may be selected for the International Internship Award. The purpose of this award is to allow the student to continue their work experience on statelessness through a follow-up internship outside the Netherlands. The Statelessness Programme liaises closely with its partner organisations to identify suitable international internship opportunities, in accordance with the particular skills and interests of the student selected for the Award.

In December 2012, we were delighted to present this Award to its first recipient: Ms. Sangita Jaghai. Sangita, a law student at Tilburg university was an intern with us from February to December 2012. She has completed exceptional work on the issue of statelessness in the context of the Dutch ‘no fault’ policy. She also played a pivotal role in the December symposium where she presented the findings of this project, that we hope will lead to follow-up initiatives to address the issue. Thanks to this International Internship Award, Sangita will be joining the UNHCR South East Asia Regional office in Bangkok for six months starting from January 2013.

What I am most excited about is the chance to get a new perspective on statelessness. Until now, I have studied the issue in the Netherlands, where its impact can be dire, but it is still a marginal issue affecting only a relatively small group. In South East Asia though, the problem is on a whole other scale and I look forward to learning more about the challenges that the region faces.

Sangita Jaghai, recipient of the Statelessness Programme’s first international internship award
We have now started the overall write-up phase of the project, based on the information collected by the local experts. The project will result in a comparative study on citizenship law and practice in the region as a whole, together with a number of separate papers on specific issues or country situations – such as the stateless Kurds of Syria and statelessness among the Tebu in Libya. All of these will be finalised for publication during the first half of 2013.

**Statelessness and the Dutch ‘no fault’ procedure**

In December 2011, UNHCR published a mapping study of statelessness in the Netherlands. A key finding was that the lack of a dedicated Statelessness Status Determination procedure is leaving many stateless people in legal limbo, sometimes for years. In several cases, this has created a vicious cycle of destitution and detention. The only option that exists under current Dutch law for stateless people who do not qualify for asylum or another type of immigration status is to regularise their stay in the country by virtue of the ‘No Fault’ procedure (buitenschuldvrijprocedure). This allows people who have no immigration status, but are not able to leave the country due to practical or legal obstacles, to obtain a residence permit. However, there are signs that stateless people have great difficulties using this procedure. The Statelessness Programme requested and was granted permission to conduct an analysis of the immigration case files of those individuals who entered the ‘no fault’ procedure. This research was undertaken from September to November 2012 and comprised the following three steps: 1) careful study of the statistics relating to ‘no fault’ applications and decisions from the period 2005 – 2011 to identify any relevant trends; 2) general analysis of the 426 ‘no fault’ cases decided in the period 2010 – 2011 to understand the general characteristics of the procedure and decision-making; and 3) detailed analysis of selected case files from the period 2010 – 2011 to look more closely at decision-making in cases of (self-)identified statelessness.

The main discovery made was that statelessness plays no role in the procedure and a claim of statelessness has no effect on the decision-making, nor is it necessarily investigated or confirmed as part of the ‘no fault’ procedure. This conclusion and the further findings of the research were discussed with government policy- and decision makers, lawyers, UNHCR staff members, civil society activists and academics during the Symposium on international developments in the field of statelessness and the situation in the Netherlands on 13 December 2012. An article detailing these findings is also being drafted for publication in the Dutch language journal Asiel en Migrantenrecht – widely read by people working in the asylum and immigration law field – in 2013, in a special edition that focuses on the problem of statelessness.

**Global Nationality Law Database**

The Statelessness Programme is collaborating with UNHCR and the European Union Democracy Observatory on Citizenship on a project to develop a Global Nationality Law Analytical Database. We offered some technical input to the development of a set of benchmarks, based on international legal standards, which form the basis of the analysis of nationality laws. The ambition is for the database to eventually cover and make comparable all countries in the world. We are responsible for the initial collection and analysis of nationality legislation from 42 countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia to feed into this innovative online database. The first phase of this database is expected to be made available over the course of 2013.

**Statelessness, legal empowerment and human trafficking in Thailand**

In mid-2012, the Statelessness Programme was awarded funding from the US State Department to develop a research methodology for mapping the impact of statelessness on women in Thailand, with a specific focus on legal empowerment and vulnerability to trafficking, in order to develop and pilot a dedicated intervention strategy to address this impact. The idea is to measure the impact of statelessness on people’s Subjective Legal Empowerment in relation to key problems indicative of a heightened risk of trafficking. We are working with trafficking expert Conny Rijken and Subjective Legal Empowerment expert Martin Gramatikov on this project. The field research will be conducted during the first half of 2013, followed by the intervention strategy pilot and overall project write-up.

**Nationality and gender discrimination research**

Gender discrimination is still a feature of at least 36 countries’ nationality legislation and is continuing to lead to new cases of statelessness, especially among children. The Statelessness Programme has been commissioned to engage in research in five countries which maintain or have recently removed gender discrimination from their laws in order to contribute to efforts to advocate for the reform of any remaining problematic nationality legislation. Field missions will be undertaken to four states in the Middle East.
and North Africa, in cooperation with the Women's Refugee Commission and a number of in-country local partners. A further field mission to a francophone African state will be conducted in collaboration with UNHCR. The desk research for this project commenced in 2012, with the field studies and write-up following in 2013.

Other research projects
In addition to the research projects described above, the Statelessness Programme has assisted with a number of smaller studies on the interaction between statelessness and different issues. These included editing and supplementing a regional report on the nexus between statelessness and migration in South East Asia for the International Organisation for Migration and the drafting of a discussion paper on the consequences of arbitrary deprivation of nationality for the enjoyment of human rights for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Publications
Below is an overview of publications that appeared during the period covered by this annual report. It should be noted that the list is necessarily limited by the fact that the Statelessness Programme’s various research projects, as described above, were only launched at the end of 2011 or later. The majority of these projects will lead to at least one publication, but these were yet to be finalised or reach publication at the time of writing of this report. Furthermore, some of the work commissioned, such as that undertaken on behalf of the International Organisation for Migration and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, resulted in reports that will be directly generated by these organisations. It can further be noted that in addition to publications that will be directly generated by the research described above, Dr. Laura van Waas is co-editing a collected edition that has been accepted for publication with Cambridge University Press and is expected to be launched at the end of 2013. Also during 2012, a chapter on ‘Statelessness’ co-written by Dr. Laura van Waas was accepted for inclusion in the new edition of the Handbook in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (Oxford University Press, scheduled for publication in 2014). A chapter on ‘The recent reform of nationality legislation in North Africa as a positive example for de-gendering citizenship regimes in the MENA region’, co-written by Dr. Laura van Waas and Ms. Zahra Albarazi, was also accepted for publication in the Handbook of Global Citizenship Studies (Routledge, scheduled for publication in 2014).


Training Activities
Statelessness Summer Course
From the 23rd to the 27th of July, a sunny Tilburg welcomed thirty participants and eight lecturers, assembling to discuss the phenomenon of statelessness. The first dedicated Statelessness Summer Course, conceived by the Statelessness Programme in collaboration with the Open Society Justice Initiative, provided a stimulating curriculum and atmosphere for all involved. Through lectures, case-studies, discussions and group-work, the Course covered many of the topical theoretical and practical issues stemming from the notion of statelessness.

The Course drew on participants’ experiences from around the world, including Burundi, Kazakhstan, Thailand, South Africa, Mexico and Slovenia amongst many others, and from differing fields, such as UNHCR, NGOs, academia, and government. Lecturers also came from varied backgrounds, further enriching the debate. These included Prof. Dr. Gerd-Rene de Groot Professor of Law at Maastricht University, Gabor Gyulai from the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Julia Harrington Reddy and Sebastian Kohn from the Equality and Citizenship program at the Open Society Justice Initiative, Mark Manly head of the Statelessness Unit at UNHCR, Dr. Benyam Mezmur research fellow at the University of Western Cape, Prof. Dr. Sriprapha Petcha-ramasee lecturer at the Institute of Human Rights Studies and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand and Zahra Albarazi from the Statelessness Programme. These experts had a melange of academic knowledge, practical experience and specific regional expertise to offer.

Testimonials for the 2012 Statelessness Summer Course
Nowhere else would I have been able to share with such a diverse and knowledgeable group of people so many experiences and information regarding statelessness. The Statelessness Summer Course is great for understanding and addressing such an important issue. Barbara Perez Martinez, Deputy of Protection, Commission for Refugee Aid – Ministry of Interior, Mexico.

The Statelessness Summer Course provided me with the background and the intellectual ammunition to promote sustainable solutions to the scourge of statelessness at the local level and more broadly. Josh Friedman, Protection Programme Manager, Danish Refugee Council, Tajikistan.

A three hundred and sixty degree view of statelessness around the world, its causes and consequences. A chance to immerse yourself in the issues, legal framework and debates and to think about what your own personal contribution to the reduction and prevention of statelessness might be. Anna Skeds, Researcher (PhD project on Child Migration), University of Swansea, United Kingdom.

Excellent lecturers, with practical work, combined with perfect organisation. Aleksandar Cadjenovic, Associate Protection Officer, UNHCR, Montenegro.
Course on ‘Nationality, Statelessness and Human Rights’

During the spring of 2012, the Statelessness Programme piloted a brand new course for university students on ‘Nationality, Statelessness and Human Rights’. Spanning the full semester and comprising 15 challenging and interactive classes, the course covered a wide range of issues from the challenge of statelessness status determination to the position of stateless people within the contemporary human rights framework. Over forty students participated in the course, completing classroom assignments, a mid-term legal analysis exercise and submitting a final paper on a statelessness subject of their choice.

The participants included students enrolled in undergraduate Liberal Arts and Sciences programmes, as well as undergraduate and graduate law degrees. According to the evaluation and feedback forms, the course was very well received (scoring an average 8.5 out of 10), so it will continue to be offered each spring semester in years to come. It is now a compulsory course for the Liberal Arts Law Major and an elective for students enrolled in degree programmes with the Law faculty. We hope to use our experiences and the materials and assignments developed to encourage other universities to do more teaching on this issue.

External training sessions

The Statelessness Programme has designed, developed and executed a variety of professional training sessions on statelessness for different audiences around the world. These ranged from single presentations on a particular theme to whole and multi-day training programmes. An overview of the main training venues and audiences is provided below:

UNHCR

Headquarters (Geneva, September 2011, January 2012 and December 2012), Africa region (Pretoria, June 2011), Americas region (Mexico City, August 2011), Europe region (Budapest,
Organisation of American States
Washington DC, February 2012
Special one-day training on statelessness convened by the Organisation of American States. Over 50 participants attended the lectures, representing around 20 different country missions and a number of other organizations. A webcast of the course, which covered topics such as the international legal framework relating to statelessness and status determination procedure for stateless persons, can be found on the OAS website.

Cambodian civil society
Phnom Penh, April 2012
One-day training on statelessness and developments in South East Asia for civil society organisations and UN agency staff active in Cambodia.

European civil society
Budapest, November 2012
Various training sessions during the three-day seminar on statelessness that was convened as the first major capacity building initiative of the newly formed European Network on Statelessness – a regional civil society alliance in which the Statelessness Programme plays an active part.

Outreach Activities

Statelessness Convention 50th anniversary commemoration: 31 August 2011
The 30th of August 2011 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1961 United Nations Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In honour of this important milestone and preceding the official launch of the Statelessness Programme, we organised a ‘Birthday Wishes’ campaign to raise awareness of the phenomenon of statelessness. A campaign team comprising two staff members of the Statelessness Programme and two of UNHCR’s Dutch office toured the country, delivering birthday cupcakes to individuals and organisations with an interest in statelessness. Each recipient was asked to make a wish as they blew the candle out. The objective was to build a greater interest in the problem of statelessness and to encourage further debate among stakeholders on the way forward in addressing the issue. Among those who made a wish for statelessness that day were: Lionel Veer, the Dutch Human Rights Ambassador; Jan Pronk, former Development Cooperation Minister and UN Special Representative in Sudan; a team of senior advisors at the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities; and staff members of Vluchtelingenwerk, Hammerslag & van Haren lawyers and Amnesty International. We also dropped in at the Wereldhuis in Amsterdam where we were privileged to meet a committed group of individuals providing help to anyone who needed it in their community, regardless of nationality or legal status, and to meet several stateless people who had themselves suffered from the inaction of the authorities to solve their situation.

Official launch event – Symposium and Photography Exhibition: 31 October - 4 November 2011
In honour of the official launch of Tilburg Law School’s Statelessness Programme a series of activities were held at Tilburg University between 31 October and 4 November. Given that outreach is one of the pillars of the Programme, these activities were dedicated towards introducing new audiences to the subject of statelessness. Throughout the week, the exhibition “Nowhere People” by award-winning photographer Greg Constantine was displayed at the University. The powerfully evocative and artistic black-and-white photos drew everyone’s attention, demonstrating to them the diversity of stateless groups, from Bangladesh to Ukraine.

The main event took place on November 3rd - a symposium entitled No Country, No Nationality, No Rights? Greg Constantine, the aforementioned photographer, was the first one to speak. He has worked intensively for the last six years to produce the powerful “Nowhere People” series. He talked passionately about the impact that the denial of citizenship has on stateless people he has spent time with and how it can be a root cause of other critical issues like forced migration, human trafficking and even armed conflict. The second lecture was on the stateless people of Lebanon and Latvia. This was given by Els Duran and Evelien Vehof, two journalists who are writing about statelessness within their project “Citizens of Nowhere”. Last to speak were the Head of Office of UNHCR in the Netherlands, Rene Bruin, and one of the researchers of the UNHCR study on stateless-
On Thursday 13 December 2012, the Statelessness Programme hosted a symposium entitled ‘International developments in the field of statelessness and the situation in the Netherlands’. Organised in cooperation with the universities of Maastricht and Leiden, as well as UNHCR in the Hague, the symposium drew over fifty participants from Dutch civil society, government, legal practice and academia. One of the central subjects explored was when and how statelessness is currently established in the Dutch context and whether there is a need for a dedicated procedure. The recommendation that the Netherlands establish a statelessness procedure was one of the main outcomes of research published by UNHCR at the end of 2011 on the situation of stateless people in the country. However, detailed debate on the issue remained outstanding and this question was therefore channelled into the symposium, including through the presentation of the findings of the Statelessness Programme’s research into the operation of the ‘No Fault’ policy and a discussion on the outcome of this study with policy- and decision makers from the Migration Policy Department of the Dutch Ministry for Security and Justice. There was also a discussion of the role of Dutch municipalities in the determination of statelessness, to which civil servants from Roermond, Maastricht, Utrecht and the Hague contributed.

Roundtable debate on “How gendered is citizenship?”: 19 April 2012

Worldwide, at least 25 countries continue to discriminate against women in their right to transmit nationality to their children, putting their children at increased risk of statelessness and all of the hardships that entails. On 19 April 2012, the Statelessness Programme organised an expert debate on the unequal nationality rights of men and women. The invited experts were: Prof. Cees Flinterman (CEDAW / UN Human Rights Committee), Ms. Radha Govil (UNHCR) and Prof. René de Groot (comparative nationality law expert).

Under the guidance of Sebastian Köhn of the Open Society Justice Initiative, they discussed the historic origins of the unequal nationality rights of men and women, before turning to look at the factors that have contributed to the wave of legal reform that has been achieved across the globe over the past few decades. A full video of the event and some discussion questions relating to the theme have been made available on our blog site, for use as a teaching tool.

Symposium on statelessness in the Netherlands: 13 December 2012

On Thursday 13 December 2012, the Statelessness Programme hosted a symposium entitled ‘International developments in the field of statelessness and the situation in the Netherlands’. Organised in cooperation with the universities of Maastricht and Leiden, as well as UNHCR in the Hague, the symposium drew over fifty participants from Dutch civil society, government, legal practice and academia. One of the central subjects explored was when and how statelessness is currently established in the Dutch context and whether there is a need for a dedicated procedure. The recommendation that the Netherlands establish a statelessness procedure was one of the main outcomes of research published by UNHCR at the end of 2011 on the situation of stateless people in the country. However, detailed debate on the issue remained outstanding and this question was therefore channelled into the symposium, including through the presentation of the findings of the Statelessness Programme’s research into the operation of the ‘No Fault’ policy and a discussion on the outcome of this study with policy- and decision makers from the Migration Policy Department of the Dutch Ministry for Security and Justice. There was also a discussion of the role of Dutch municipalities in the determination of statelessness, to which civil servants from Roermond, Maastricht, Utrecht and the Hague contributed.

The symposium was also an opportunity to bring those involved in the issue of statelessness in the Netherlands up to speed on a number of key international and European developments, including the content of a series of UNHCR guidelines on core statelessness doctrine issued in 2012 (introduced by Inge Sturkenboom, Regional Statelessness Officer for UNHCR), the establishment and operation
of Statelessness Determination Procedures in countries across Europe (introduced by Gábor Gyulai of the European Network on Statelessness and Tamás Molnár of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior) and the latest jurisprudence relating to statelessness before the European Court of Human Rights (introduced by Prof. Egbert Myjer, former Dutch judge at the Court). The day was opened by Professor Cees Flinterman of the UN Human Rights Committee and the closing words were offered by Professor Ernst Hirsch Ballin, former Dutch Minister of Justice.

Social media

In order to engage with a diverse and international audience on interesting developments in the field of statelessness and to provide regular updates on our own activities, the Statelessness Programme has an active presence on a number of social media sites. This is an important component of our day-to-day outreach work.

Blog: http://statelessprog.blogspot.com
We offer an informal commentary on the latest statelessness news, reports on our own activities and guest pieces by other people active in the field of statelessness on our blog site. Among the topics covered during 2012 were: “Denationalising Bahrainis – Ousting the opposition”, “An instant best practice: The Philippines new Stateless Status Determination Procedure”, “A global campaign to end statelessness – The time has come” (guest post); and “Rottmann and Genovese: How will Europe’s nationality laws stand up to the scrutiny of its regional courts?”

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/statelessnessprogramme
Our Facebook page is used as a site for informal exchange with people interested in the topic of statelessness. We regularly post news updates and invite comments. We also announce relevant events here and maintain a repository of photographs of Statelessness Programme activities.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/statelessprog
Since establishing our Twitter page we have posted over 800 tweets with statelessness-related news, tapping into developments from around the world. In particular we closely followed, tweeted and re-tweeted about the 2011 UNHCR Inter-Ministerial meeting, described as a ‘quantum leap’ for statelessness and have also actively used Twitter as a means to follow unfolding developments over the course of 2012 relating to the stateless Bidoon in Kuwait.

Other outreach activities

In addition to the outreach activities described above, the Statelessness Programme also disseminates a quarterly newsletter to a mailing list which includes government, academic, UN and NGO organisations and staff members. We have also contributed opinion pieces to the Oecumene Project on Citizenship after orientalism, Sociale Vraagstukken for academic debate on social issues and the Ars Aequi periodical for current legal issues. Furthermore, we offer an online Statelessness Research and Advice Service, providing feedback to young researchers embarking on dissertation studies on statelessness and helping to point them towards relevant information and literature. For Tilburg University’s own Bachelor and Masters students – in either liberal arts or law programmes – we also engage in direct supervision of dissertation research.