

Equal nationality rights for equal citizens, women and men.

Priorities and Needs

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

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

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

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

The Global Campaign is taking this momentum forward to implement the following activities over a three-year period in order to realize progress on reforms in five countries.

“Having seen the effectiveness of the Global Campaign’s work in Bahrain, we see its role as being equally important to achieving breakthroughs in a number of other key operations in the region where gender-discriminatory nationality laws can produce statelessness as well as other rights violations.”

- Regional Protection Officer-
Statelessness, UNHCR MENA

Annual Activities:

- 3 regional/national workshops
- Small advocacy grants for national advocacy interventions
- Publications on key topics (identified each year based on need)
- High-level event convening government and civil society leaders

Activities reference unit cost

Regional/National Advocacy Campaign Workshop & Stakeholder Meetings (\$20,000 - 75,000/workshop)

In many countries ripe for reform there is a lack of resources to support the strategic planning and mobilization of civil society and government allies needed to tip the balance for success.

The Global Campaign will conduct regional and national advocacy planning workshops with 20-50 individuals representing key civil society organizations, government representatives and allied political, community and religious leaders. Each workshop will develop a time-bound road map for collaborative national and international action to achieve equal nationality rights for women and men.

This 3-4 day mission includes:

- Preparatory mapping of the local political scene, allies and opposition with national civil society partners
- Exchange with government and civil society representatives from a country that recently reformed its law
- Training on the negative impact of gender discriminatory nationality laws and relevant international human rights law
- Advocacy capacity building sessions
- Work plan development
- Meetings with key stakeholders
- Media sensitization
- Press briefing



Middle East-North Africa Regional Conference on Lessons Learned from Successful Nationality Law Reform Campaigns (\$50,000)

The MENA region has the highest concentration of countries that deny women's right to confer nationality to children. It is also the region with the highest number of reforms advancing women's nationality rights over the past decade. Despite these achievements, leaders of the successful reforms efforts and other regional stakeholders have not convened to discuss the paths to reform and the significant positive impact of reforms on individuals, families and society-at-large. Such a convening would facilitate the sharing of good practices and strategies from previous efforts and emphasize to regional neighbors the importance of ensuring women's nationality rights.

Small Advocacy Grants for National-Level Interventions (\$10,000 - 80,000)

Small grants will be provided to NGOs in order to implement advocacy interventions identified during national workshops. Advocacy interventions will include media engagement; direct outreach to government officials and political leaders; dissemination of informational material and advocacy messages; and other awareness raising activities. These small grants will support targeted interventions to engage government stakeholders and the public, resulting in greater awareness, attention and action.

Report on the Positive Impact of Recent Reforms Advancing Women's Nationality Rights in MENA (\$35,000)

This report will demonstrate the significant benefits of recent reforms in the region that advanced women's ability to equally confer her nationality through profiles and personal stories of individuals who benefitted from these reforms and testimonies by government officials and other stakeholders.

Strategy Sessions and Report to Address Syrian Women's Nationality Rights and Protection Challenges Resulting from Gender Discrimination in the Nationality Law (\$50,000)

In partnership with the Syrian Women on the Frontline (WoF) consortium, the Global Campaign will convene three strategic planning and capacity-building sessions with 20 Syrian civil society leaders and experts, including members of Syria Special Envoy Mistura's Women Advisory Board. All Syrians engaged in project activities will be strictly independent civil society members. The participants — influential Syrian civil society leaders who are currently working towards a process of establishing an inclusive and democratic constitution for all Syrians — will leverage these sessions (2 in Beirut, 1 in Istanbul) to develop proposals for the integration of Syrian women's nationality rights in the Constitution. These discussions will provide the basis for a report documenting the legal arguments and recommendations of the participating Syrian civil society leaders.

High-level event convening government and civil society leaders (\$7,000 - \$15,000)

Each year the Global Campaign will hold a high-level event convening government and civil society leaders from target and champion countries to increase mobilization to advance gender equal nationality rights at the international and national levels. Examples of such convenings include high-level events at the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Human Rights Council Sessions, side events at regional meetings, such as ECOWAS, ASEAN, Arab League convenings.

For further information, contact:

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