

Sign-On Letter in Support of the Stateless Protection Act of 2023

July 2023

We are more than 50 nonprofit organizations writing to endorse the Stateless Protection Act of 2023 for the benefits it will offer stateless people, their families, and their communities in the United States.

Stateless individuals are people “who are not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.” The Center for Migration Studies estimated in 2020 that there are approximately 218,000 individuals in the United States who are either stateless or at risk of statelessness. These people often become stateless when their home country changes states and because of discrimination based on race, religion, and gender. People who are stateless often experience significant financial hardship, separation from relatives, and lengthy and indefinite immigration detention.

The Stateless Protection Act would offer key areas of clarity in U.S. immigration law and relief for stateless people who can face a lifetime without legal status. The Stateless Protection Act would, for the first time, offer a consistent, federal definition of statelessness. The Act would also offer the first immigration relief for stateless people because of their statelessness. Specifically, the Act would provide stateless people with work authorization, travel documents, and protection from deportation and removal. Some individuals would also be eligible to apply for lawful permanent residence.

This Act promises to improve the status of stateless people in the United States, allowing them to maintain family ties, remain and work in their communities, and access the solution to statelessness: durable legal status.

We thank Sen. Cardin and Rep. Raskin for their leadership on this Act and urge Congress to take action to pass this legislation.

Signed,

Adoptee Rights Law Center

African Human Rights Coalition

Al Otro Lado

Alianza Americas

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination
Committee (ADC)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Bhutanese Community Association of
Pittsburgh

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Center for Victims of Torture

Church World Service

Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services Inc
Families for Freedom
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Free Migration Project
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Haitian-American United For Change
HIAS
Human Rights First
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Immigrant Defense Oregon of Metropolitan Public Defender
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Immigration Hub
Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA)
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
Islamic Relief USA
La Resistencia
Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention
Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Medical Mission Sisters - Justice Office
MetroWest Legal Services
Minnesota Freedom Fund
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)
National Partnership for New Americans
Oxfam America
Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center
Public Law Center
Refugee Congress
Refugee Council USA
Refugees International
Society of the Flora, Fauna & Friend
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
United Stateless
We Are All America
Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Women's Refugee Commission
Woori Center